

# THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 1432.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1855.

PRICE  
FOURPENCE  
Stamped Edition, 5d.

UNIVERSITY of LONDON.—EVENING CLASSES, for Candidates for Matriculation, Ordinary Degree, and Honours, will be given this Term, by Rev. J. HENRY SMALLEY, M.A., and G. R. SMALLEY, B.A., will be required for the ensuing Term on April 16.—Apply to BELL & DALDY, 186, Fleet-street; or Mr. LEWIS, Gower-street, North.

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—New Students will be admitted into the following Departments on TUESDAY, April 17th, 1855.

THE THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT, which provides a course of instruction for those who propose to offer themselves as candidates for holy orders.

THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL LITERATURE and SCIENCE, including Greek and Latin, Modern English, French, and Composition, French and German, and adapted for those Students who purpose to offer themselves for the Civil Service of the Hon. East India Company's service, or to proceed to the Universities.

THE DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED SCIENCES, which provides a course of instruction for those who are likely to be engaged in Civil Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, and the higher branches of Manufacturing Art.

THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT, intended for the training of those who expect Commissions in the Army, or direct appointments to the Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, and Royal Artillery.

THE CIVIL SERVICE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT, designed:—1. For those expecting or intending to offer themselves as candidates for appointments in the Civil Service of Her Majesty's Government; 2. For those who are preparing themselves for Mercantile, or other similar pursuits.

Full particulars may be obtained from J. W. CUNNINGHAM, Esq., King's College, London.

R. W. JELF, D.D., Principal.

ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY, Regent's Park.

—THE EXHIBITIONS of PLANTS, FLOWERS, and FRUIT this Season will take place on WEDNESDAYS, May 9th, June 13th, and July 4th; and of AMERICAN PLANTS, MONDAY, June 11th.

Tickets of admission are now being issued; and may be obtained at the Gardens only, by orders from Friends, or Members of the Society. Price, one or before May 5th, 4s.; after that day, 5s. each.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY of LONDON.—

DISTRIBUTION of BRITISH PLANTS, 1855.—Members are requested to send their Lists of Desiderata forthwith marked on the 4th Edition of the London Catalogue of British Plants, 20, Bedford-street, Strand.

G. E. DENNES, Secretary.

1st March, 1855.

N.B.—The Herbarium may be inspected every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from Ten until Five. The Library is open on the same days.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY of LONDON.—

GARDEN EXHIBITIONS.—Notice is hereby given that the FIRST EXHIBITION of the Season will take place by permission of Her Majesty's Commissioners for the Great Exhibition of 1851, in the GROUNDS of GORE HOUSE, on WEDNESDAY, May 16.

Privileged Tickets, at 2s. 6d. each, are now issuing to Fellows of the Society, or their orders, at 2s. Regent-street, daily, from 11 to 4.

ROYAL INSTITUTION of GREAT BRITAIN, Albemarle-street.—THE WEEKLY EVENING MEETINGS of the Members of the Royal Institution will be resumed on FRIDAY, the 30th of April, at half-past Eight o'clock.

The following COURSES will be delivered after Easter:—Eight Lectures by Prof. H. D. B. BROWN, on the History of the Times, commencing on the 17th of April. Eight Lectures by G. Schatz, Esq. jun., F.R.S.A. (with Illustrations), on Christian Art, from the Earliest Period to Raphael and Michael Angelo, on Thursdays, commencing on the 19th of April. Eight Lectures by Dr. Bois-Reymond, on the History of Physiology, on Tuesdays, commencing on the 24th of April. The above Lectures will begin at Three o'clock in the afternoon. Terms, One Guinea for each Course; or Two Guineas for all the Courses.

JOHN BARLOW, M.A. Sec. R.I.

DEPARTMENT of SCIENCE and ART.

DIVISION of ART.

Marlborough House, Pall Mall.

LECTURES on ORNAMENTAL ART, by R. N. WORMWELL, Lecturer on Ornament, following MONDAY EVENINGS, at half-past Eight o'clock, and on TUESDAY AFTERNOONS, after Four.

Lecture 1. Decorative Art of the Ancient Egyptians—2nd and 3rd of April.

2. Egypt; Ornamental Details—16th and 17th of April.

3. Greek Heroic Age of Greek Art—23rd and 24th of April.

4. Greece; Ornamental Details—30th of April and 1st of May.

5. Rome in the Decline—7th and 8th of May.

6. Early Christian and Byzantine Art—14th and 15th of May.

7. Byzantine, Romanesque, and Saracenic Art—21st and 22nd of May.

8. The Saxon, Norman, and Early Pointed Style—28th and 29th of May.

9. Gothic Ornament, Decorated Pointed—4th and 5th of June.

10. The Renaissance Trecento—11th and 12th of June.

11. The Cinquecento—18th and 19th of June.

12. The Balthazar, the Louis Quatorze—25th and 26th of May.

Tickets for the Course of 12 Lectures, at 6s. each, or 1s. for a single Lecture, to be had at the Museum, Marlborough House.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION, REGENT-STREET.

Resident Director—J. H. PEPPER, Esq.

A SEPARATE EVENING CLASS not exceeding four, for the STUDY of PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY, is in progress, under the superintendence of J. H. Pepper, Esq. and Mr. J. Spiller, of the Museum of Practical Geology, and late Senior Assistant in the Royal College of Chemistry.

The Course, which will consist of Twelve Demonstrations and Sixteen Lessons, will embrace the general principles of Chemistry and of Chemical Analysis, with special reference to the Application of the Science to the Useful Arts.

Also, an EVENING CLASS for the STUDY of the CHEMISTRY of PHOTOGRAPHY, under the superintendence of Mr. J. SPILLER.

This Course will consist of Twelve Lectures, in the Laboratory of the Institution.

ROYAL ACADEMY of ARTS, Trafalgar-square.—NOTICE to ARTISTS.—Works in Painting, Sculpture, Drawing, and Engraving, intended for the EXHIBITION at the ROYAL ACADEMY, must be sent in on Monday, the 9th, or Tuesday, the 10th of April, inst., after which time no Work can possibly be received, nor can any Works be received which have already been publicly exhibited.

ALL PAINTINGS and Drawings must be in gilt frames.

Oil Paintings under glass and Drawings with wide margins are inadmissible. Excessive breadth in frames as well as projecting mouldings may prevent Pictures obtaining the situation they otherwise merit. The other regulations necessary to be observed may be obtained at the Royal Academy.

JONH PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A. Sec.

Every possible care will be taken of Works sent for exhibition, but the Royal Academy will not hold itself accountable in any case of injury or loss, nor can it undertake to pay the carriage or expense of packing.

The prices of Works to be disposed of may be communicated to the Secretary.

TESTIMONIAL to the late LORD DUDLEY COUTTS STUART.—At a PUBLIC MEETING, held at Willis's Rooms, on Friday, the 23rd of March,

THE EIGHTH, the EARL of SHAFTESBURY in the Chair, 1855.—Resolved,

That a subscription be opened for the purpose of erecting a testimonial to Lord Dudley Coutts Stuart, in commemoration of his persevering advocacy of the rights of the Polish nation, and of his incessant and benevolent labours in succouring the afflicted and distressed.

Contributions will be received at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand; Messrs. Hanbury, Taylor & Lloyd's, 60, Lombard-street; and by the Secretary of the Literary Association of the Friends of Poland, 10, Duke-street, St. James's.

R. W. JELF, MILNES, Chairman.

W. L. BIRKBECK, Hon.

CHARLES SZULCZEWSKI, Secretaries.

PATRIOTIC FUND for the RELIEF of the WIDOWS and ORPHANS of BRITISH OFFICERS engaged in the WAR with RUSSIA.

DRAWINGS and MEMBERS of the ROYAL FAMILY, and Works of Art for Amateurs and others, are now being exhibited at 121, Pall Mall—Admittance, One Shilling. Catalogue, Sixpence. Open from Ten till dusk.

PATRIOTIC FUND for the RELIEF of the WIDOWS and ORPHANS of BRITISH OFFICERS engaged in the WAR with RUSSIA.

THE FIELD of BATTLE, drawn by H.R.H. the PRINCESS ROYAL.—The Committee having obtained Her Majesty's most gracious permission to publish an Engraving, in Cromo-Lithography, from the Drawing of H.R.H. the Princess Royal, to be sold at the price of one shilling each—respectfully respectfully to announce that the Print will be a perfect fac-simile of the Drawing; that the execution of it has been entrusted to Mr. VINCENT BROOKS, and is rapidly advancing towards completion.

PRINTS, &c., Subscribers' Names received by all Print and Booksellers in Town and Country, by the Publishers, HOGARTH, Haymarket, London; and at the Gallery, 121, Pall Mall.

THE NEW VOCAL ASSOCIATION, on the Plan of the Berlin Sing-Academy, for the PRACTICE of AMATEURS in UNACCOMPANIED CHORAL MUSIC, directed by Messrs. BENEDICT and HENRY SMART. THE FIRST MEETING will take place immediately after Easter. Term (payable in advance), 1s. 10s. for fifteen meetings, including the use of Music. Prospectsus, fully explaining the plan of this Association, will be published in the next Number of the Musical Times.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, 3 guineas, and 1 guinea a year for stationery.

All Pupils may be introduced by a Patron, a Promoter, or a Master in the College.

Arrangements will be made for Pupils to dine on the premises.

The Masters are ready to take Boarders.

Prospectsus may be obtained at the above address.

NORTHWOOD PARK, COWES, Isle of Wight.—Mr. WHITE (St. John's College, Cambridge) has

VACANCIES for PUPILS who are preparing for the Public Schools, the Navy, and the Military Schools. The Mansion and Grounds are unrivalled, and opportunities are given for Sea Bathing, Boating, and Pony Exercise. The Terms are moderate.

COLLEGE DISTINCTION, extending 14 years, from Heads of College. Distinction of the Church Officers in both Services, Members of Parliament, &c., can be submitted.

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and a view to prepare them for the Public Schools, Naval and Military Colleges, or any of the various Professions.

His system of instruction includes—

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4. FIGHTING, CAVALLERIA, DRAWING, PENCING, and MILITARY TRAINING—in which the Military Class receive regular instruction.

The Establishment is divided into an Upper and a Lower School. Pupils in the latter division are thus kept separate from their seniors, both in the hours of study and recreation.

Individuals of high standing in society, and including several Noblemen, Dignitaries of the Church, and Indi-

cials, are admitted.

TERMS.—If under twelve years of age, 50 Guineas per annum; above that age, 60 Guineas. No extra whatever, except Books and Medical Attendance.

THE SPRING TERM COMMENCES on TUESDAY, April 10.

PRIVATE TUITION.—A Married Clergyman,

with no Parochial Duty, who is preparing a few Pupils

two for Addiscombe and others for Woolwich and Eton, will

have a VACANCY after Easter for a Pupil, to whose health or Education great personal attention is required.—Address the Rev. E. R. Post-office, Tonbridge, Kent.

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CATE HEALTH.—A Fellow of the London College of Physicians (Wrangler at Cambridge, and late Scholar of his

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The School is supported by the Proprietors subscribing 2d. each,

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R. HODSON, Hon. Sec.

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**NEW WORKS  
PUBLISHED THIS DAY.**

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**NARRATIVE of a CAMPAIGN in the CRIMEA; including an Account of the BATTLES of ALMA, BALAKLAVA, and INKERMANN.** By Lieut. GEORGE PEARD, 29th Regiment. Small 8vo. 6s. [Next week.]

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**NEW EDITIONS OF POPULAR WORKS**

**PUBLISHED THIS DAY.**

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II.  
**MEMOIRS of CELEBRATED CHARACTERS.** By ALPHONSE DE LAMARTINE, Author of "History of the Girondists." Second Edition. 2 vols. crown 8vo. 12s.

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London: RICHARD BENTLEY, New Burlington-street,  
(Publisher in Ordinary to Her Majesty.)

13, GREAT MARLBOROUGH-STREET.  
**HURST & BLACKETT,**  
Successors to Mr. Colburn,  
WILL SHORTLY PUBLISH  
THE FOLLOWING NEW WORKS.

VOLS. III. and IV. of THE  
**DUKE of BUCKINGHAM'S MEMOIRS** of the COURT and CABINETS of GEORGE III., from Original Family Documents. Completing the Work. In 8vo. with Portraits. (In a few days.)

Among the principal important and interesting subjects of these volumes (comprising the period from 1800 to 1810) are the following:—The Union of Great Britain and Ireland—The Catholic Question—The Retirement from Office of Mr. Pitt and Lord Grenville—The Addington Administration—The Peace of Amiens—The connexion of the Prince of Wales with the Opposition—The Coalition of Pitt, Fox, and Grenville—The Downfall of the Addington Ministry—The Conduct of the Princess of Wales—Nelson in the Baltic and at Trafalgar—The Administration of Lord Grenville and Mr. Fox—The Abolition of the Slave Trade—The Walcheren Expedition—The Inquiry into the Conduct of the Duke of York—The Convention of Cintra—The Expeditions to Portugal and Spain—The Quarrel of Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Canning—The Malady of George III.—Proceedings for the Establishment of the Regency, &c. The volumes also comprise the Private Correspondence of Lord Grenville, when Secretary of State and First Lord of the Treasury—of the Right Hon. Thomas Grenville, when President of the Board of Control and First Lord of the Admiralty—of the Duke of Wellington, during his early Campaigns in the Peninsula; with numerous confidential communications from George III., the Prince of Wales, Lords Castlereagh, Elgin, Hobart, Camden, Essex, Carysfort, Melville, Howick, Wellesley, Fitzwilliam, Temple, Buckingham, Mr. Fox, Mr. Wyndham, &c. &c.

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**NEW WORKS.**

The EDINBURGH REVIEW,  
No. CCVL APRIL, 1855. 8vo. 6s. [On the 17th inst.]

Contents.

1. SLAVERY in the UNITED STATES.
2. SIBERIA.
3. ENGLISH SURNAMES.
4. THE CORRECTION of JUVENILE OFFENDERS.
5. HUC'S TRAVELS in CHINA.
6. PASCAL PAOLI.
7. THE CHEMISTRY of COMMON LIFE.
8. AUTOCRACY of the CZARS.
9. LORD BROUGHAM on CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.
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3. The UNITY of WORLDS and the PHILOSOPHY of CREATION. By the Rev. BADEN POWELL, M.A., V.P.R.S. Crown 8vo. 12s. 6d.

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Announcements for April.

X. RUBY EDITION of MOORE'S POETICAL WORKS, complete in 1 vol. with Portrait. Post 8vo. 12s. 6d. [At the end of April.]

XI. The PHASIS of MATTER; or, the Discoveries and Applications of MODERN CHEMISTRY. By T. LINDLEY KEMP, M.D. 2 vols. crown 8vo. [At the end of April.]

XII. LOUDON'S ENCYCLOPÆDIA of PLANTS, corrected to 1855 by Mrs. LOUDON and GEORGE DON, F.L.S. 8vo. with 10,000 Woodcuts. [At the end of April.]

XIII. The Rev. W. J. CONYBEARE'S ESSAYS, ECCLESIASTICAL and SOCIAL, from the *Edinburgh Review*. 8vo. [At the end of April.]

XIV. The CALENDAR of VICTORY. By Major JOHNS, R.M. and Lieut. P. H. NICOLAS, R.M. Feap. 8vo. [At the end of April.]

XV. The LITURGICAL CLASS BOOK: A Series of Reading Lessons on the Book of Common Prayer. By J. JONES, C.M. 12mo. 1s. 6d. [Next week.]

XVI. The LITTLE PHILOSOPHER on the SCIENCE of FAMILIAR THINGS. By T. TATE, F.R.A.S. With Woodcuts. Parts I. to III. 12mo. 1s. each. [At the end of April.]

XVII. The Traveller's Library, Part 82. PRINTING: Its ANTECEDENTS, ORIGIN, and RESULTS. 16mo. price One Shilling. [On the 30th inst.]

London: LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, and LONGMANS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1855.

## REVIEWS

*Memoirs of the Right Hon. Richard Lalor Sheil.*  
By W. Torrens McCullagh. 2 vols. Hurst & Blackett.

FOR many reasons we turned with interest to the work before us. Sheil played a distinguished, if not a decisive, part in the history of his times. He was amongst the foremost of Irish tribunes, and was in the House of Commons a successful speaker, of a peculiar kind. In our Clubs and in London society his caustic tone and sparkling sayings were familiar to many, while his literary accomplishments commended him to the regard of several who had no taste for Irish agitation. Of the remarkable scenes through which he passed, and of certain concealed passages in Irish politics, we hoped to obtain here some striking revelations. But Mr. McCullagh has entered on his biography too soon. The elaborate reserve, the guarded tone, and the subdued spirit of the whole performance, impart a coldness to the volumes not in keeping with the subject, or in accordance with the picturesque eloquence of the writer. A bright and impulsive nature like Sheil should have been painted with more vivid colour and depth of tone. While placing the orator in the foreground, some of his contemporaries should have been spiritedly grouped together, in order to give a life-like and animated picture of the times in which Sheil flourished.

Sheil was born on the 17th of August, 1791, at Drumdowney—a small country house, near Waterford. Of his family we are told little by Mr. McCullagh.—

Edward Sheil, the father of the subject of these memoirs, had passed his earlier years in Spain. He was a man of quick intelligence, and active in the pursuit of business. Many of his countrymen were settled at Cadiz, where they gradually acquired wealth and distinction by their devotion to trade. \* \* Not long after his return from Spain, Mr. Sheil married Miss Catherine McCarthy, of Spring House, in the county of Tipperary, whose sister was the wife of General D'Alton, an officer who served with distinction in the Austrian army. These ladies were nearly related to Count McCarthy, who had formerly possessed large estates in Ireland; but who, having disposed of them, settled at Toulouse, where his family subsequently resided.

An old man, James Hincks, retains to this day a recollection of Sheil as a boy.—

"I have often seen him walking about with his book in his hand, and talking to himself, and then, all of a sudden, he would put his book on the stump of a tree, and he would throw and fling his arms about, and he would scold at it as if it was a man he was in a passion with."

How intensely Sheil's instincts pointed towards oratory, we learn from a letter from Mr. Justice Ball (of the Irish Court of Common Pleas) to Mr. McCullagh.—

"He had always, as long as I can recollect, been in the habit of speaking of eloquence as beyond all other objects of admiration; and to become a great public speaker was, from the outset, the professed object of his ambition. Aware as he soon became of the obstacles to its attainment in his striking defects of voice, utterance, personal appearance, and manner, he went to work to correct them all with an undoubting faith in his success, and a determination to spare no toil or effort to accomplish it. The course he pursued was to practise declamation, accompanied by gesture and reading aloud. He would often apply to me and others to criticise his performance, and bespeak our candid opinion of its merits or defects; and the earnestness with which he courted and entreated the most unmitigated exposure of his faults, and the thankful spirit in which he welcomed it, were not the least remarkable or

least interesting traits of his character. The fact was, he was throughout sustained by the thorough conviction that he was destined to become one day a great orator; and I am satisfied that never for a single day, even while he was at school, was that impression absent from his mind."

The difficulty of the voice was partly overcome by Sheil's paying much attention to the art of pausing, so as to give relief to the ear, and taking great pains with distinctness of articulation. Of the successful speakers whom we now remember Sheil had beyond comparison the worst voice. Its cacophony used to remind us of the two lines by Pope imitative of harsh sounds (preserved by Spence)—

" Shields, helms, and swords all jangle as they hang,  
And sound formidinous with angry clang."

Yet let it be told to his lasting honour, in spite of this grievous defect, and with the disadvantages of narrow circumstances, Sheil made his way to social success and high political distinction. If we judge rightly from the hints of Mr. McCullagh, Sheil passed through the severest pecuniary difficulties.

It is upon this latter point we see most clearly that this work has appeared too soon. Our readers may recollect how, on a former occasion, it has been shown in these columns how much of what has appeared about Edmund Burke in print is mythical; and that the facts of his early life were carefully concealed. Mr. McCullagh, after deliberation, has resolved on the same policy in dealing with the history of his subject. After a pathetic description of the sufferings endured by gifted men of poverty, the writer says:—

"Something of the terrible experience in question was at a later period depicted by Sheil in some of the essays which he published anonymously, and to which allusion will hereafter more particularly be made; and other evidences are still in existence of the bitter mortifications which are the lot of every man who, without the possession of a competency, attempts to tread an ambitious path in life; and who, unable to stifle within himself the inspirations of a divine nature, is perpetually beset and baffled by the meanest exigencies of existence. Ought all these to be set forth in detail to gratify the curiosity of the crowd? Assuredly, no. To the many,—who after all are, happily for themselves, secure from such trials and temptations, and who, happily also for themselves, are out of all true and practical sympathy with those who undergo the struggle,—such details are, perhaps, more likely to convey misleading than correct impressions; and to the comparatively few who have been schooled by fellow-suffering in fellow-feeling, such details are seldom acceptable when uttered in the public way. If it be true of all men, surely it is more especially true of men of genius, that 'the heart knoweth its own bitterness, and a stranger comprehendeth it not.'"

The excess of the difficulties hinted at makes Sheil's subsequent success infinitely more meritorious and encouraging to others. Nothing, however, can be more eloquent as to his early tortures than Sheil's confession after he had risen to the pinnacle of success.—

"The long struggle of his youth with niggard fortune had left an indelible impress on his mind. 'The high-born and opulent,' he would sometimes say, 'are incapable of realizing the misery and humiliation to which a man of education and of feeling is exposed, when he has to gamble with his wits for the price of a dinner. But who that has passed through the ordeal can forget it? For myself I have never been able to get the chill of early poverty out of my bones.'"

It seems that his father, after having realized a large fortune, was by commercial reverses cast very low in the social scale.—

"He was no longer able to afford the expenses necessary for his son's collegiate studies; and these must have been interrupted for a considerable time, if not wholly abandoned, but for the kindness and liberality of a relative, who spontaneously undertook

to make Richard an allowance of a hundred pounds a year, until he should have been called to the bar. Dr. William Foley by whom this generous offer was made, was a physician of eminence in Waterford, where he had acquired in his profession a considerable fortune."

Sheil graduated in Trinity College, Dublin, in July, 1811, and proceeded to Lincoln's Inn to keep terms for the bar.

Many curious particulars have often reached our ears of the mode in which young Irish literary adventurers then conducted themselves in London. After the Union, there was for a time a great influx of them. The fact of Tom Moore having got to the suppers at Carlton House, and to a place in the Colonies, roused the ambition of several. His friend, Mr. Croker, a young barrister fresh from the Munster Circuit, becoming Secretary to the Admiralty, added to the desire of others for settlement in London. The success of the clever satire called 'All the Talents,' which gave its name to the Fox-Grenville Cabinet, and report of the pleasant social way in which its author, Eaton Barrett, and his friends, Hugh and John Doherty (afterwards Chief Justice) lived amongst 'the Saxons,' stimulated other young Irishmen to try their fortunes. Their countrymen, the Wellesleys, Lord Castlereagh, Lord Moira, Canning, and Sheridan, had also great political consideration.

It was in such times that Sheil, encouraged by the examples around him, aspired to recruit his fortunes by writing for the stage. On this part of his story his biographer is not deeply informed, and he has occupied too many pages with extracts from the plays of Sheil. Both the late James Kenney and Howard Payne were full of anecdotes of those days. We must be brief in treating of them. The dramas of Sheil, excepting 'Evadne,' were ephemeral in their success, and owed their effect to the charms of Miss O'Neil (Lady Beecher). 'Adelaide,' the first of them, was written for her; and played in Dublin with success on the 14th of February, 1814. Two years afterwards, when tried at Covent Garden, it did not succeed. His next play was 'The Apostate,' produced on the 3rd of May, 1817. Of the author's reading of this play, Mr. Macready observes:—

"When he began to read 'The Apostate' in the green room, there was a disposition to smile at his very peculiar voice and manner, but its earnestness soon riveted attention, and the reading terminated to the satisfaction of all but myself, who had to undertake the disagreeable character of *Pescara*. I had met him the day before at Wallace's chambers, and it was impossible to be in his company and not to like him. Our acquaintance soon ripened into friendship, which was never relaxed during his life."

Of his nervous anxiety on the night of its performance, Mr. McCullagh tells us:—

"With painful solicitude he watched the performance during the first and second acts. All went well, however. There was some applause, no murmurs, and at length, sick of his own misgivings, and conscious perhaps that he betrayed a certain want of dignity in the irrepressible excitement of his look and manner, he betook himself to the green-room when the third act began, resolved to remain there during the remainder of the play. Few of its usual occupants were lingering there; and one of the attendants soon observed the restless author pacing with measured steps the *estrade*, or narrow platform, which was placed all round the room, and on which a continuous row of seats was specially devoted to the performers. For a time he seemed wholly unconscious that any one was present; he then suddenly stopped, and in a low tone exclaimed, 'Can you tell me, sir, about what time they generally begin to hiss tragedies at this house?'"

Of the profits derived from 'The Apostate,' we are told:—

"Besides the gratification derived from its success, the publication and performance of 'The Apostate' were productive of other advantages, not less acceptable. The copyright was purchased by Mr. Murray for 300*l.*, and in his hands it passed through several editions. In addition to this, the author is said to have received 400*l.* from the managers of the theatre."

—It is probable that the profits from the theatre were not quite so large, but they must have been considerable. For 'Bellamira,' which was played several nights in 1818, Sheil, according to his biographer, received 100*l.* from Mr. Murray for copyright, and 300*l.* from the theatre. Concerning the origin of the play of 'Evadne,' we shall let the biographer speak.—

"It was at Mr. Murray's that Mr. Sheil became acquainted with Mr. Gifford, who was then preparing an edition of the works of Shirley for publication. Gifford spoke of one of the plays as almost fit for representation, and asked Mr. Sheil to call upon him, that he might give him a printed copy: he did so next day, and received from him the proof-sheets of 'The Traitor,' with which he was greatly delighted; he at once applied himself to the task of its adaptation, and exulted in being able to find a new character in *Lorenzo* for his friend Macready. He made considerable alterations, and, omitting altogether the most important scene of the old drama, substituted for it one wholly different in conception and language. Old Mr. Harris, to whom it was then submitted, returned it with the remark, that an altered play never had the same interest and attraction as a new one, and that the person who could write such a scene as that in the third act (the statue-scene afterwards embodied in 'Evadne') ought to write the entire play himself. This suggestion was not unfruitful. His mind continued to dwell upon the subject, and some months after he had completed what was destined to prove the most lastingly popular of his compositions."

Many of our play-going readers must recollect that one of Miss Helen Faucit's favourite parts was *Evadne*. It is stated that the author derived 500*l.* profit from it. His subsequent play of 'The Huguenot' did not succeed, but he was a joint author with Banion in 'Damon and Pythias.' Mr. McCullagh does not appear to have received any information from Lady Beecher about Sheil in those days. His play of 'The Huguenot' suffered severely from her having left the stage, for, as Mr. Macready well says, "There was only one Miss O'Neil." In the elaborate paper on 'The Retirement of Miss O'Neil' by Hazlitt (*London Magazine*, Feb., 1820), there is a pen-and-ink portrait extant of that brilliant and fascinating actress; but Hazlitt, though specially commanding her *Belvidera*, *Isabella* and *Mrs. Beverley*, never mentions her successes in Sheil's plays. Yet there was a remarkable coincidence between the histrionic sensibility of the great actress and the oratorical vehemence of the young dramatist.

But we must turn from the dramatist to Sheil, the Irish popular leader. His public life naturally divides itself into his career as a popular tribune, haranguing from the platform, and as a senator, addressing the Imperial public. We cannot plunge into what has been called "the great Serbonian bog of Irish politics." The history of the Catholic Question (at least in its external phases) has often been told, and Mr. McCullagh has communicated no new facts upon it.

Sheil appears to have been an artist in words, of singular ingenuity and wonderful success. He did not decide events, or sway society with sustained power. He could scarcely be said to be a statesman, and he never was the leader even of a section in the House of Commons; but he made brilliant speeches, which were read far and wide, and often he lashed into frenzy the passions of Irish auditors and readers. It was easy to sneer at him as a melo-dramatic

claimer, and to call him (as O'Connell did) "an iambic rhapsodist"; but still there was the power of intense susceptibility in his style, joined to mastery over language. It is not correct to say that in oratory he was "a second-hand Grattan." Many of his sentences have the anti-thesis and epigram of the chief of the Irish orators; but in logical construction, it is evident that Sheil had moulded his style on the master-pieces of the French pulpit which he had studied under the Jesuits.

Criticism on his eloquence would, however, carry us too far. We think that Mr. McCullagh might have profitably treated of this theme; but we are more concerned to observe that he gives us no picture of the inner life of Sheil, as an ally and contemporary of O'Connell. In his history of Sheil as a champion of the Catholics up to 1829, there is nothing told here that everybody did not know; and so rapidly, and almost evasively, does the biographer pass over the leading part taken by Sheil in the calamitous agitation for "Repeal of the Union," that an incident, in relation to "Who is the Traitor?" affair, comes upon the reader with surprise. A member of Parliament stated to his constituents that he knew that an Irish member, who spoke with violence against the Coercion Bill, went to Ministers, and "advised them in private not to hate an atom of the Bill." This charge was subsequently applied to Sheil; it was investigated before a Committee of the House of Commons,—and he was triumphantly acquitted.

But in Mr. McCullagh's narrative of the affair we are startled with the following passage. While the charge was still pending, Mr. McCullagh writes,—the italics in the following passage being our own:—

"Mr. Fonblanche, with whom he had long been intimate, happened to enter the Athenæum Club, and hastily crossed the hall without perceiving that Sheil was standing alone near the fire. Hearing his name sharply called, he turned round, and encountered a look of mingled reproach and despondency too painfully explained by the exclamation—'Are you also going to cut me?'—'Good God!' replied his friend, 'how could you suppose me capable of slighting or neglecting you? What can have induced you to conceive such an idea?'—'Because I fancy that every man I meet is anxious to avoid me; and I knew not whether you might not be disposed to go with the rest.' Shocked by the ill-suppressed agitation of his tone and manner, Mr. Fonblanche drew him aside, and earnestly endeavoured to persuade him that he exaggerated greatly whatever symptoms of coldness or alienation he might have casually encountered. He expostulated with him on the imprudence of betraying anxieties which would be too readily ascribed, however wrongfully, to self-conviction; and tried to rally the sense of pride and moral courage which seemed to have been suddenly paralyzed within him. His utmost efforts for a considerable time were wholly fruitless, and he gladly availed himself of some excuse to seek for Mr. Charles Buller, with whom he almost immediately returned to their desponding friend. Hours passed away in animated discussion of all the various phases which the pending inquiry might assume, and the thousand possible and impossible constructions that might be put upon every trivial word or ironical phrase of ill-remembered conversations. He was possessed with the idea that O'Connell long desired an opportunity of getting rid of him, and would seize upon the present occasion 'to destroy him with his constituents in Ireland.' Nothing could be more groundless than such an apprehension, as the sequel soon afterwards proved; but for the moment it was impossible to convince him of its fallacy. After a time his mind appeared to become somewhat more calm; but so deep and settled was the gloom that still hung over him, that his friends resolved not to leave him to himself, and insisted upon his spending the remainder of the day in their company. They dined together at the house of Mr. Fonblanche, and

both of them accompanied him to his home. The greater part of the following day was spent in the same manner, and it was only by the continuous care and judicious kindness of his gifted and considerate companions, that he at length regained somewhat of his accustomed buoyancy and self-possession."

In this passage is revealed the chief deficiency in this work, considered as a biography. Why should Sheil have entertained such an extraordinary idea about O'Connell's sentiments towards him? What had O'Connell done that Sheil should then anticipate such ferocious treatment from one who really acted on that occasion as a masterly advocate and generous friend? Only two years previously, when the Repeal party was formed, when Lord Killeen, Sir Henry Parnell, Mr. Wyse of Waterford, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Wallace, and all the moderate liberals of Ireland were assailed by O'Connell, Sheil had joined the agitator, and adopted the Repeal cry, which he afterwards called "a splendid phantom." He supported O'Connell in assailing the Whig Ministers with excessive virulence; and why should he in 1834 have supposed that his ally would then destroy him?

On that important point, on all the most peculiar relations which subsisted between O'Connell and Sheil, and in the singular part taken by Sheil in reference to "Repeal," this biography is silent. After Emancipation was conceded, England was astounded by a new cry being substituted, and the most consistent of liberals being flung out of the Irish representation, and their places given to Repealers, headed by O'Connell and Sheil. This is all that Mr. McCullagh has to say—about half a page—on that important passage:—

"He had sacrificed a popularity second only to that of O'Connell, by refusing to join with him in the resumption of agitation after the passing of the Relief Bill. He had steadfastly clung to the belief that Ministers could not long continue to be blinded as to the course which it was their constitutional duty to pursue, by the personal resentments of Mr. Stanley, or of those who contributed with him to maintain intolerant and illiberal views. But experience had falsified these anticipations. The taunts and reproaches of having deserted the cause of country and of creed, which he had previously borne with equanimity because he felt them to be unjust, assumed a very different significance when he could no longer persuade even himself that there was any definite prospect of seeing that sectarian equality established for which he so long had striven. With the literal realization of the project propounded by O'Connell, for the dissolution of the Union and the reconstitution of a separate Parliament in Ireland, he gave himself perhaps no very practical concern."

Let the last damaging sentence be marked. His biographer tells us that Sheil "gave himself no very practical concern" (!) with a question that disorganized Irish society, disappointed all Englishmen interested in the prosperity of Ireland, and went far to restore the waning influence of the old ascendancy, by the reactionary influence it provoked. If Sheil's life was to be written at all, the public had a right to know what were his motives in coqueting as he did with such a question. He spoke for it in 1834; but just after he sat down, Sir Robert Peel made the walls of Parliament ring again by producing the evidence of "Richard Sheil, Esq." before a Special Committee in 1825, in which he stated that "Repeal" was only "a rhetorical artifice." Numbers of the most honourable Irish representatives refused to obtain seats by not taking "any practical concern" whether the disastrous Repeal cry was a delusion or reality. It is remarkable that with the Irish democracy and the English Whig aristocracy the conduct of Sheil was looked on as unsatisfactory; and after the revelations in Lord Cloncurry's Correspondence upon those

times, we had a right to expect that Sheil's biographer would have treated fully of his conduct.

The truth seems to be, that Sheil had no talents as a man of action, no presumptive qualities to the title of a statesman. His measure seems to be exactly taken in saying that he was an artist in words. He had few profound convictions—no deep moral passion; and without such qualities no man can expect to be a ruler of his kind. Some passages of his life, after reading these volumes, are more inexplicable than ever. After the (so-called) "Repealers" joined the English Liberals, Sheil's claims to notice were brought before Lord Melbourne, and Mr. M'Cullagh writes:—

"Lord John Russell wrote to Lord Melbourne, suggesting that he should ascertain what his views as to office were. The premier did so, asking him if he still looked for professional advancement. He said, No, that he had very much forgotten his law, and would prefer political or other office. On learning this, Lord John proposed that he should have the clerkship of the Ordnance, saying 'that although he might have forgotten his law, he was certainly well up to working the guns.' Some delay however intervened, and the commissionership of Greenwich Hospital fell vacant. It certainly was hardly worthy of his acceptance; but he had often expressed an anxiety to have something for life, as his income was chiefly dependent on that of Mrs. Sheil, and under the impression that it was permanent and compatible with parliament, Lord Melbourne offered it to him. In the conversation which took place upon the occasion, Sheil said he preferred it on this account to the clerkship of the Ordnance, although he added, laughing, the salary is not very splendid. Lord Melbourne replied that '600l. a-year was a very good thing, and 300l. a-year was a very good thing: Sir Henry Parnell used to boast that he lived upon 200l. a-year, and lived like a gentleman.' \* \* His acceptance of this appointment was much disapproved of by many of his warmest friends. When Mr. Woulfe heard of it, he exclaimed, 'It is an act that those who love and value Sheil as he deserves, never can forgive him.'"

—This shifting about from office to office reads pleasantly in the face of our disasters in the Crimea. Because Sheil had forgotten his law he was to go into a department the duties of which he had never learnt.

Sheil was not then in want of money; his wife (a most estimable woman) was very rich; he had only one child. A popular leader willing to acquire any post with a good salary—begging and bargaining for a provision, without one thought of his fitness or unfitness for the office—is by no means a wholesome spectacle. He was subsequently made a Vice-President of the Board of Trade, Judge-Advocate General, and Master of the Mint, and afterwards Minister at Florence. It seems, however, that he was not satisfied, inasmuch as he was not made a Cabinet Minister.

On a variety of other important questions we had hoped that Sheil's biographer would have thrown light. The general historian has not much to learn from the outlines in this work, and much of the personal life of Sheil is unnoticed. Several cases in which he distinguished himself at the bar are not even mentioned, including actions for breach of promise of marriage in which he was specially retained. Various important phases of the Roman Catholic question, before and after 1829, are not even indicated, and we have no account of the feelings of Sheil during Cardinal Wiseman's aggression. This reticence is the more remarkable from a biographer whose experience as a publicist must have qualified him for special elucidation of his subject.

From these points we turn to the interesting anecdotes scattered through this work. They are not so numerous as we could wish, but some of them are very good. In their latter

days Sir Robert Peel and Sheil often found themselves together.—

"Early in August [1848] he was one of a party invited to meet Sir Robert Peel at Nuneham, the seat of Mr. Vernon Harcourt, in Oxfordshire. He was much pleased with the tone and manner of the ex-Premier, which was, he said, much less reserved and more out-spoken than he had anticipated—no assumption and no compliments, but on the whole conciliatory, and his talk about politics very suggestive. There was a good deal of conversation about Ireland, of which his mind seemed full. The expediency of putting the relations between the State and the Catholic Church on a different footing had obviously engrossed much of his thoughts; and in reply to an observation respecting direct endowment, Sir Robert assented, adding pointedly, 'It would be impossible for me to do it.' In a letter, written on his return to town, allusion is made to this visit. 'I went on Saturday last to Mr. Harcourt's, in Oxfordshire, where I met Sir Robert Peel. He was exceedingly gay and agreeable, and appears to have no desire to return to office. We had a large party of Tories. I make no doubt that Ministers will propose to endow the Catholic Church next session.'"

The following, about Mr. Disraeli, is interesting:—

"For the wit and eloquence of Mr. Disraeli he often expressed the highest admiration. It was the fashion at the time among his own party, especially amongst the mediocrities and conventionalists, of which the bulk of all parties are made up, to decry the talents of one who had seized on political position by a Parliamentary *coup de main*, and seemed determined to retain it, in defiance of all the solemn protests of dowagerhood and dulness, by his own indomitable will. At the anger of the born-statesmen, that a great party should be led by a man without connexions or landed title to bear rule over a landed Parliament, Sheil laughed heartily. But with those few fellow-peebians, who, like himself, were not ashamed of their order, the triumph of Mr. Disraeli was felt to be the triumph of unfriended, unaided, untolerated genius over the most relentless of all monopolies—that of political caste. 'It is wonderful,' he would exclaim, in audible soliloquy; 'I have had some experience of what he has undergone and overcome, and I think it wonderful.'"

—And the author then quoted the saying of Sheil, when, in a financial speech, Mr. Disraeli was dull,—"He is an anatomist without a corpse."

In his latter days, Sheil gave himself up to saying very sharp things; some of the best of which were too savage for type.—The following is amusing to the initiated; but it is told guardedly. After alluding to Lord Bessborough's vice-royalty, Mr. M'Cullagh relates:—

"During the famine, nobleman of large estates in Ireland had rendered himself somewhat remarkable by the publicity of the attentions he paid to a lady of great personal attractions. Many of his friends reproached him with not taking a more exclusive interest at such a time in public affairs. Their remonstrances proved unavailing, and Sheil resolved to try the effect of a joke. 'What is the armorial motto of the family?' he asked, 'for whatever it is, it must after this year be changed, and I can tell you what the new one will be.—*Sine Cere Venus*.'

Of Sheil's extraordinary power of verbal memory, and his mode of preparing all his speeches, we get the following picture. In the O'Connell case, in 1843, he recited his speech to the reporters beforehand.—

"Far greater was their surprise when he undertook to speak it for them by anticipation. With his hands wrapped in flannel he kept moving slowly up and down the room, repeating with great rapidity, and occasionally with his wonted vehemence of intonation, passage after passage, and paragraph after paragraph; then, wearied with the strange and irksome effort, he would lay himself down upon a sofa, and after a short pause re-commence his expostulation with the jury, his allusions to the Bench, and his sarcastic apostrophes to the counsel for the Crown. On he went, with but brief interruptions,

and few pauses to correct or alter, until the whole was finished, and had been accurately noted down. Written out with care, it was sent to the printer, and at the moment when he rose to speak in court, printed copies were in the hands of those who had faithfully rendered his ideas previously. As he proceeded they were thus enabled to mark easily and rapidly any slight variations of phraseology; but these for the most part were so few and trivial as to cause little delay in the correction of the proofs."

All through life he carefully wrote out beforehand every word that he was going to say. Of course, such a system left him nothing but "a set speaker," incapable of following an adversary. It made him excel as a rhetorician. A debater he never became.

But there were brilliancy, sarcasm, and high literary finish in his words. His speeches in Parliament were like the essence of a score of pungent leading articles, allusive, caustic, and full of incrimination. They rarely exceeded an hour, and were not discharged often in a session. Though there was more of Vauxhall than of the actual siege of war in their stunning noise and flaming display in a party point of view, they were always ornamental, and often most formidable.

On the whole, we expected more from these volumes. The celebrity of their subject, and the well-known literary accomplishments of their author, made us hope that some important lights would have been thrown on the modern history of Ireland. We have read more effective compositions from the author's pen, and we fear that the constraint in its pages has diminished the vivacity of his style. But the work is composed in admirable temper; unlike the case of other Irish biographers, the author has neither pricked his own fingers nor those of any one else; and, in spite of its reticence and omissions, there is enough of curious matter in its pages to commend it to an extensive circulation.

*Sisters of Charity, Catholic and Protestant, Abroad and at Home.* By Mrs. Jameson. Longman & Co.

'Sisters of Charity,' a lecture, privately delivered, and now printed, we welcome gladly, for though it makes but a little book it is a leave that will work much good. It is not only admirable in its design and spirit, but (what is scarcely less essential in the present instance to its success) it is written with exquisite tact and judgment, conciliating whatever of prejudice or adverse sympathy might lie upon the surface of the subject. It is what a woman's appeal ought to be, if it is to be successful,—full of the subtle sympathy and delicate tact which understands the vulnerable point where difficulties may be assailed, and which reconciles rather than conquers. Women have always been treated as though they were a race of beautiful zebras, entirely incapable of being trained for use. The subject presented in Mrs. Jameson's lecture is, "Whether there be any hope or possibility of organizing into some wise and recognizable system the talent and energy, the piety and tenderness of our women for the good of the whole community?"

Here is a subject opened affecting the welfare of society; but it is from women themselves that the help must come,—the word that sleeps yet unspoken must be uttered by one of them. No man can give shape and utterance to the thoughts and aspirations and capacities that lie, latent or fermenting, in the hearts of women. There have been in all ages men endowed with apostolic natures, who have been able to speak to men,—to unite their hearts for the attainment of this or that great object of the moment:—but, as regards women, the ele-

ment of combination and coherence has yet to be discovered. They cannot be true to themselves:—with all their wealth of passionate sensibility, devotion, patient self-sacrifice, noble heroism, and high-minded sense of duty, it is nevertheless true of them as a body that “they all seek their own.” Their virtues are individual, and their intense personality carries egoism and exclusiveness to the root of their inner life. Their virtues are all for the benefit of the men to whom they attach themselves; women are rarely friends to each other. It is scant measure of generosity, and still less of justice, that women mete out towards women,—each of them seeks to make her own terms secretly with the world; and being thus divided against themselves, what wonder that the “condition of woman” is still the complicated social problem, for which there are so many patent theories, but which no one has yet arisen to solve. The moral teacher who next rises to instruct the world needs to be a woman! But she is not come; and, in the meanwhile, we must proceed to deal with Mrs. Jameson’s excellent little book,—in which there is a full appreciation of all the difficulty and a *presentiment*, at least, of the solution.—

“In the last census of 1851, there appears an excess of the female over the male population of Great Britain of more than half a million, the proportion being 104 women to every 100 men. How shall we employ this superfluity of the ‘feminine element’ in society, how turn it to good and useful purposes, instead of allowing it to run to waste? Take of these 500,000 superfluous women only the one-hundredth part, say 5,000 women who are willing to work for good, to join the communion of labour, under a directing power, if only they knew how—if only they could *learn* how—best to do their work, and if employment were open to them,—what a phalanx it would be if properly organised? Everywhere I find the opinion of thoughtful and intelligent men corroborative of my own observations and conclusions. In spite of the adverse feeling of ‘*that other public*, to which we, the sensible reflecting public, are not in the least degree related,’—in spite of routine and prejudice,—the feeling of those who in the long run will lead opinion, is for us. They say, ‘In all our national institutions we want the help of women. In our hospitals, prisons, lunatic asylums, workhouses, reformatory schools, elementary schools,—everywhere we want efficient women, and none are to be found prepared or educated for our purpose.’ The men whom I have heard speak this, seem to regard this infusion of a superior class of working women into our public institutions as a new want, a new expedient. They do not seem to feel, or recognise, the profound truth, that the want now so generally felt and acknowledged, arises out of a great unacknowledged law of the Creator,—a law old as creation itself, which makes the moral health of the community to depend on the co-operation of woman in all work that concerns the well-being of man. For as I have said before, it is not in one or two relations, but in all the possible relations of life, in which men and women are concerned, that they must work together for mutual improvement, and the general good; and I return to the principle laid down at first, ‘the communion of love and the communion of labour.’”

The following is admirable as well as eloquent. Mrs. Jameson throughout insists upon *training* and *discipline* as the indispensable prelude to any good word or work.—

“If domestic life be, then, the foundation and the bond of all social communities, does it not seem clear that there must exist between man and woman, even from the beginning, the communion of love and the communion of labour? By the first, I understand all the benevolent affections and their results, and all the binding charities of life, extended from the home into the more ample social relations; and in the latter I comprehend all the active duties, all intellectual exercise of the faculties, also extended from the central home into the larger social circle. When from the cross those memorable words were

uttered by our Lord, ‘Behold thy Mother! Behold thy Son!’ do you think they were addressed only to the two desolate mourners who then and there wept at his feet? No—they were spoken, like all his words, to the wide universe, to all humanity, to all time! I rest, therefore, all I have to say hereafter upon what I conceive to be a great vital truth,—an unchangeable, indisputable, natural law. And it is this: that men and women are by nature mutually dependent, mutually helpful; that this communion exists not merely in one or two relations, which custom may define and authorise, and to which opinion may restrict them in this or that class, in this or that position; but must extend to every possible relation in existence in which the two sexes can be socially approximated. Thus, for instance, a man, in the first place, merely sustains and defends his home; then he works to sustain and defend the community or the nation he belongs to: and so of woman; she begins by being the nurse, the teacher, the cherisher of her home, through her greater tenderness and purer moral sentiments; then she uses these qualities and sympathies on a larger scale, to cherish and purify society. But still the man and the woman must continue to share the work; there must be the communion of labour in the large human family just as there was within the narrower precincts of home. You will wonder that I begin with truisms such as no man in his senses ever thinks of disputing; but the wonder is that, while admitted, they are never acted upon. Can you give me any one instance in which this primal law of our being, with regard to the distribution of work, has been taken as the natural and necessary basis for any improvement in legislation or in education? Can you point to any one among these piles of Blue-books and reports,—educational reports, sanitary reports, jail reports, juvenile delinquent reports,—in which such principles are adverted to? It is granted as a principle that ample scope should be given for the man to perform his share of the social work, and ample means of instruction to enable him to perform it well. What provision is made to enable the woman to do *her* work well and efficiently? It is not charity, nor energy, nor intelligence which are wanting in our women, any more than dauntless bravery in our men. But something is wanting; or surely from so much good material, more positive and extended social benefits would arise. What is wanting is more moral courage, more common sense on the part of our legislators. If men were better educated they would sympathise in the necessity of giving a better education to women. They would perceive the wisdom of applying, on a large and efficient scale, the means of health, strength, and progress which lie in the gentler capacities of the gentler sex,—material ready at hand, as yet wasted in desultory, often misdirected efforts, or perishing inert, or fermenting to evil and despair. Lying at the source of the mischief we trace a great *mistake* and a great *want*. The great mistake seems to have been that in all our legislation it is taken for granted that the woman is always protected, always under tutelage, always within the precincts of a home; finding there her work, her interests, her duties, and her happiness: but is this true? We know that it is altogether false. There are thousands and thousands of women who have no protection, no guide, no help, no home;—who are absolutely driven by circumstance and necessity, if not by impulse and inclination, to carry out into the larger community the sympathies, the domestic instincts, the active administrative capabilities with which God has endowed them; but these instincts, sympathies, capabilities, require, first, to be properly developed, then properly trained, and then directed into large and useful channels, according to the individual tendencies. As to the want, what I insist on particularly is, that the means do not exist for the training of those powers; that the sphere of duties which should occupy them is not acknowledged; and I must express my deep conviction that society is suffering in its depths through this great mistake and this great want. We require in our country the recognition—the public recognition—by law as well as by opinion, of the woman’s privilege to share in the communion of labour at her own free choice, and the foundation of institutions which shall train her to do her work well. I am anxious that you should not misunderstand me at the outset with regard to this ‘woman-

*question*,’ as it has been called. I have no intention to discuss either the rights or the wrongs of women. I think that on this question our relations across the Atlantic have gone a mile beyond the winning-post, and brought discredit and ridicule on that just cause which, here in England, prejudice, custom, ignorance have in a manner crushed and smothered up. It is in this country, beyond all Christian countries, that what has been called, quaintly but expressively, the ‘feminine element of society,’ considered as a power applicable in many ways to the amelioration of many social evils, has been not only neglected, but absolutely ignored by those who govern us. The woman cries out for the occasion and the means to do well her appointed and permitted work, to perform worthily her share in the natural communion of labour. Because it is denied to her she perishes, ‘and no man layeth it to heart.’”

In our progress through the book we find we had turned down nearly all the pages for quotation; but better than all quotation will it be if our readers will take the book in hand for themselves. In the belief that such will be the case, we leave Mrs. Jameson with the hope that the good seed she has scattered may take root and bring forth fruit.

*History of the Two Tartar Conquerors of China, including the Two Journeys into Tartary of Father Ferdinand Verbiest, in the Suite of the Emperor Kang-hi.* From the French of Père Pierre Joseph d’Orléans. Translated and edited by the Earl of Ellesmere. Printed for the Hakluyt Society.

THE reasons for the selection of this little work, we are told in the Preface, are, the highly interesting character of the two journeys into Tartary performed by Father Verbiest in the years 1682 and 1683, and the especial claim which all authentic information respecting the Tartar dynasty in China has upon the attention of the general reader at a time like the present, when the progress of that formidable and most singular revolution there bids fair to restore native princes to the throne of their conquerors.

The narrator, Father Ferdinand Verbiest, was sent out to China in 1659 as the coadjutor of the celebrated Adam Schall, a Jesuit of great skill in mathematics and the experimental sciences, and the successor of the illustrious Ricci. As Schall was advanced in life—almost seventy—Verbiest became his coadjutor, and partook of the favour which had been shown him by the Emperor. Soon after, in consequence of the Emperor’s death, both Schall and Verbiest underwent under the regency severe persecution:—the former sank beneath his trials, at the age of seventy-eight; but Verbiest survived to become a favourite of the son, Kang-hi, who, on attaining his majority, appointed him successor of Schall in the department of astronomy, and even condescended to take lessons in mathematics, for which purpose Verbiest made himself master of the Tartar language. The varied talents of the Jesuit missionaries had often before—in China, as elsewhere—been put in requisition, but seldom, perhaps, more singularly than in the case of Father Verbiest, who in 1681 was desired by the Emperor to superintend the casting of his artillery, and who succeeded so well in this warlike occupation, that “he had the satisfaction of offering the Emperor a park of three hundred and twenty pieces of his own manufacture.” Such a person had, therefore, no common opportunities for obtaining information regarding this far-off and little known kingdom; and we cannot be surprised that his narrative, although now well nigh forgotten, excited much interest on its first appearance in Europe.

The earlier portion of the narrative gives an account of the two successive conquests of China by the Tartars. The first, effected by the Eastern

Tartars,—the second, about a hundred and fifty years after, by the more energetic Western Tartars. Verbiest's narrative—very cursory as to the history of the last three Emperors—presents the usual details of conspiracies and revolts and most sanguinary contests, until the energetic rule of Chunchi reduced the land to peace and to a comparative degree of prosperity. Several anecdotes of this Tartar sovereign show how attached he was to the Jesuit missionaries, and how anxious to benefit by European knowledge. He died, however, while still young, of the small-pox, leaving a son only eight years old as his successor. As Chunchi was strict in maintaining the observance of Tartar customs, "the queen, his mother, after his example, renewed the cruel custom of compelling the living to follow the dead. Chunchi had had a favourite, a young Tartar, one of the best born and best bred adherents of the court. As soon as the emperor had expired, the empress sent for this young man, and looking at him with an eye of anger, said: 'Is it possible that you are still alive?' The prince understood this language, and the empress was not long in making it clear. 'Go,' she said, more gently, 'go and keep company with my son. He loved you well, and, as I believe, you replied to his affection and the honour of his friendship. He expects you; go and rejoin him, and by your promptitude in so doing show yourself worthy of his impatience for the meeting. You love him. Further discourse is needless. Go and bid adieu to your parents, but hasten to show your fidelity to your sovereign and your attachment to your friend.' The sorrow which this sentence, so sad and so little expected, caused to the young man's family, is not to be described. He himself quitted life with regret, for his attachment was not strong enough to make him hate existence. He was counselled to escape, and was not deaf to the advice; but the queen took care to anticipate it, for she sent him in a gilded casket a bow-string by two messengers, who were charged to give every assistance for its use, which any failure of his own courage might render necessary. Thus perished this prince, happy had he been less favoured by nature and fortune."

Camhi, Chunchi's successor, on attaining his full age, re-established the Jesuits, and became on even more friendly terms with them than his father. After putting down a very extensive revolt, and "peace having been thus re-established, the Emperor set out on the 23rd of March, 1682, to go to the province of Leauton, which is the country of his ancestors, for the purpose of visiting their sepulchres." His eldest son, "his three principal queens, and the grandes and mandarins of the court," with a retinue consisting in all of more than seventy thousand, set forth; and "he desired that I also should accompany him, that I might make in his presence the observations necessary to know the disposition of the heavens, the elevation of the pole, and the declination of each country." For the convenience of this vast multitude, a new road was made, of far inferior construction, indeed, to those of Kublai Khan, but still a work of immense labour, for it extended eleven hundred miles from Pekin, was quite level, about ten feet in width, with a little bank about a foot high on each side, and "as clean as the floor where the labourers thresh the corn in the fields." Inferior roads were made beside this royal causeway, for "the infinite number of waggons, camels, horses, and mules;" besides the droves of oxen, sheep, and other cattle destined for the food of this immense concourse. The road was so well marked out that they encamped each night near the banks of some river. Speed, as may be supposed, was out of the question, and we find that in the space of three months they only advanced nine hundred miles.

A short account of a journey made in the suite of the same Emperor by Father Pereira

forms the Appendix; and the whole volume forms a pleasant addition to our stock, hitherto scanty, of *authentic* information respecting "the Celestial Empire."

#### MINOR MINSTRELS.

*Sonnets, Reflective and Descriptive.* Second Series. By Lord Robertson. (Edinburgh, Fraser & Co.)—The moment of the late Lord Robertson's decease, when the journals of the day were recording the style and titles on which he was allowed access to the intellectual and brilliant circles of the northern metropolis, was hardly one during which any critic would choose to deal with the deceased's attempts as a sonneteer.—The funeral train now, however, has passed, the herald has "said his say," the vault is closed, and the book of strange rhymes may be opened. Very strange are the rhymes in the book,—wandering on, betwixt reason and romance, with an aimless feebleness that is little stronger than fatuity. The late Lord Robertson fancied, apparently, that no language could be fine enough for verse; and that provided his language was fine, the fitting or misfitting of epithets and sentiments was a matter of minor consequence. Here, to exemplify, are things said by him concerning "the Mountain Ash" which have been

"unattempted yet in prose or rhyme."

*The Rowan Tree by the Mountain Stream.*  
Flaunting in summer's pride that garish tree,  
Her fan-like leaves, her gems—a gorgeous shower,  
Would fondly picture in the gloomy hour,  
Soothed by the chant of the wild symphony,  
That some she deems a serenade from thee.  
But ah! like love's torn wail thy drooping form  
No answer yieldeth to her plaint forlorn,  
In her dark boughs finds no sympathy.  
Where might her mirror be? thy fountain rude  
No spangled waters sends through this lone wild;  
Simply she warbles, as a rustic child.  
The hymn that charms this rock-girt solitude.  
Then commune with the gales, bewildered tree,  
Or with the glowing sky claim fealty.

Deeper and more mysterious oracles than the above are to be found among the sonnets which were produced by the late Lord Robertson, when he appears to have thought that he was thinking.

*Ex Eremo: Poems written chiefly in India.* By H. G. Keene. (Blackwood & Sons.)—Here is another odd miscellany, the contents of which may be pronounced "rich and strange," without abuse of language. Here, by way of sample, the ocean is made to "suffer a sea-change" which is new to us.—

Stand by the ocean;  
Behold its undulating shelves,  
How they alternately uplift themselves,  
Their ceaseless motion!

Page 42 of "Ex Eremo" contains another curiosity—a set of words to the well-known Italian melody, "O cara memoria"—so constructed that it would be impossible to sing them to the tune. "The Origin of Caste: a Mystery," is apparently comical and philosophical, as though far-off echoes of the sarcasms of *Mephistopheles* and of the "buttered thunder" in "Festus" had swept over the strings of Mr. Keene's harp, making it utter strange sounds. The eight opening lines are spoken by a celebrated historical personage, on the top of "Merry Mountain," which, it may be remembered, the Smiths assured us is

"ninety times as high as St. Paul's."

*Satan.* Whew! how I freeze! Of all the walks I've had—  
And they've been many—none were e'er so mad  
As into this unhyd altitude:  
Those plains are fine though, and, if I'm not wrong,  
The climate there would suit me. I have viewed  
The scene before; the people, I have long  
Wished for my servants, even now are crossing  
This very chain of mountains from the north.

A third and last extract shall show how a bridge-road in expectancy can lisp in numbers.

*Creation casts its burthen*  
On such a holy day;  
Shall I not to her then  
My full heart's adoration meetly pay?

She who has consented  
To be, to-day, my bride,  
And has not repented  
For any ill that might meantime betide.

Dearer than all creatures  
Of sight, or thought, or dream,  
Gilda me to-day her features  
With the mild lustre of love's languid beam.  
While, upon the Evangel,  
I pledge to her my faith,  
Give ear, all good Angels,  
To the true words my passionate spirit saith.

Absurd as are the above fragments,—by no means the most absurd which "Ex Eremo" contains,—the volume affords indications that Mr. Keene may have been originally capable of better things than making up a book of nonsense-verses for no one to buy.

*The Olden and Modern Times: with other Poems.* By the Rev. W. Smith Marriott, M.A. (Rivingtons.)—This is a most miscellaneous volume of pleasing and elegant verse—but verse of little force or originality. We have patriotic songs,—recollections of Dorsetshire,—the poor man's Paradise,—and a series of hymns and sacred pieces. They are poems to amuse a domestic circle or a neighbouring square, but are not worth a wider reputation. "Olden and Modern Times" is a harmless satire by a man with too much of the milk of human kindness in him to have any preponderance of Juvenalian bile. The author attacks the cotton lords and the man who walks on the Drury-Lane ceiling, Sir James Graham and the Bishop of Durham, the Charitable Trust Commission and the voters for the Jew Bill. The verses indicate a good husband and warm politician, and a lover of nature, but not a nature much racked by poetic pains.

*Lays and Lyrics.* By C. Rae Brown. (Hall & Co.)—Our author, to judge by his Elegy to the Memory of Thom of Inverury, his praises of Roseneath, and his Jacobite Song, is probably a Scotchman. By his verses on a Stale Lobster, we should conclude him to be a man of small taste;—from his commonplace ding-dongs about emigration and progress, we presume him to be a political rhymster of the "good-time-coming" school. A few years ago, under the Pope régime, Mr. Brown would not have been bearable, and must have, very deservedly, withered away in the poet's corner of some provincial Scotch newspaper. Now, thanks to the fashion of drawing fresh from nature, we have a few verses that are truthful and graphic. A long experience with poetlings and poetasters enables us to know that a man whose title-page comprises merely a series of "Caged Larks," "Childhood," "Nectar of Life," and such strains, will never pluck the laurel; but we respect the author whose love of nature is sufficiently strong to lead him to wish, by publishing, to rouse other minds to see the same beauties. We esteem the author whose hopes in those climacteric moments of life when verse is written, tend to universal peace, make him sigh for Poland, shout consolation to our distant army, or denounce slavery. But when we find, however amiable such aspirations may be to the individual private man, that his publicly-expressed idealities are not more fervid than those of a debilitated speaker at a vegetarian banquet, or a pale, flaccid chairman at a Teetotal Reunion, we begin to think more of the writer's vanity and less of his disinterested patriotism.

*Anglo-Belgic Ballads and Legends, and other Tales in Verse.* By Charles F. Ellerman. (Houlston & Stoneman.)—The important pages in this volume are the prefaces to the Ballads and Legends. In these Mr. Ellerman flies at Columbus,—the Court of Chancery,—the Scarlet Lady of Babylon,—and Cobbett's antipathy, the Old Lady of Threadneedle-street, with that

determined sprightliness of style which makes up the most dismal reading printed.

*Poetical Enigmas*, by F. J. Matthew (Clarke, Beeton & Co.), is the laborious effort of perverted ingenuity. No poetry can redeem the intolerable solemn dullness of an enigma.

*The Treasury of Rampinatus: a Tale of Egypt*. By J. T. Phillips, M.A. Illustrated by H. G. Hine. (Bogue.)—This is an old tale, out of Herodotus, chopped into metrical lengths, and loaded with slang and puns.

*The Ballad of Sir Rupert, a Ghost Story*, by E. H. R. (Monmouth, Farrer), is the story of the "spectre-tower," broken up into readable ballad verse.—*The Lost Child, a Legend*, by H. Stone (Adams & Gee), is a tale of maternal affection, founded, we presume, on a real incident.—*The Christian at Home, Reflections in Prose and Verse* (Fowler), is a well-intentioned volume of prose and verse. Herbert's lines should, however, be quoted.—*A Night in Buenos Ayres, a New Drama in Five Acts*, by Bushby (Settle),—a drama founded on a scene in the life of Rosas. A strange book, as full of murder as *Titus Andronicus*, and about as amusing.—*Cristel, a Christmas Poem, and Sonnets*, by Cephas (Oxford, Slatter & Rose).—Very quaint verses, but though sadly affected not without merit. The rhymes seem written for the purpose of weaving fresh combinations of words rather than thoughts.—*The Life of C. W. Jayne* (Binn & Goodwin).—A very harmless satire, not in the best taste, attacking light reading, smoking, mustachios, and other enormities of a country enveloped, as Mr. Jayne rather oddly expresses it, in "a howl of war, a fog of ignorance, and a haze of blood."—*Our Country, an Essay* (Hardwicke), is a strange unmusical protest against the national debt, which if the author wrote with more energy would be mere rant, but is now mere nonsense.

Among minor sacred poetry, we may class, almost without comment, *Sunday Afternoon* (Bagster),—*The History of Our Blessed Lord* (Parker),—*Sacred Melodies* (Edinburgh, Gall & Inglis),—and *Sacred Song-Book* (same Publishers), which are all well-intentioned books, of no merit, never rising in a single line to poetry.

*The Chemistry of Common Life*. By James F. W. Johnston, M.A. 2 vols. Blackwood & Sons. No more brilliant page has been written in the history of human progress than that which records the advance of chemical science. Dealing with the properties of elements whose relations to each other lie at the foundation of all human occupations, of all changes in the inorganic and organic worlds, and at the very source of life itself, chemistry is at once the most abstract and the most practical of all sciences. Within the present century it has realized more than the imagination of the most ardent alchemist dared to hope for, and still promises more brilliant results than any which have yet been attained. Although untaught in our Universities and neglected in our schools, it has fascinated a larger number of investigators in this country than any other branch of science; and England, though she cannot boast of her chemical schools, has reason to be proud of the position taken by her chemical philosophers. It will, we think, be a source of astonishment in future times to those who look back on the past history of our country, to find that amidst her vast material progress and the increasing development of her industrial resources, so little was systematically done to encourage a diffusion of the knowledge of the science which, above all others, seems to lie at the very foundations of her prosperity. Of all the natural sciences Chemistry seems the one best adapted for form-

ing a branch of study and a method of education in our schools; but how little has been done the statistics of our teaching will show. That there is a desire to know something more of this subject seems indicated by the demand for such works as 'The Chemistry of Common Life'; but it is a great mistake to suppose that chemistry, or any of the natural sciences, can be taught, or that they can become methods of education, by mere reading. The laws of natural science are derived from observation and experiment, and a correct knowledge of the import and value of these laws can only be imparted through the operations of the senses on the facts they embrace. It is useless to expect to teach natural science without museums, apparatus, experiments, and specimens. We know not to how large an extent there may be public prepared to intelligently apprehend Mr. Johnston's 'Chemistry of Common Life'; but if we may judge of the want of a knowledge of the most elementary principles and facts of chemistry that characterize what are ordinarily regarded as the intelligent classes of our community, they are really very few. The desire to know, we believe, exists, but the education necessary to appreciate is limited. Yet Mr. Johnston's book is a book for the people: there is hardly a fact or a principle that it would not be for the benefit of the richest as well as the poorest to know. Who is not interested in common life?—and every day this common life abounds with marvels more astonishing than any performed by human dexterity or imagined in Eastern fiction. The Air we Breathe—the Water we Drink—the Soil we Cultivate—the Plants we Grow—the Bread we Eat—the Beef we Cook—the Beverages we Infuse—the Sweets we Extract—the Liquors we Ferment—the Narcotics we Indulge in—the Odours we Enjoy—the Smells we Dislike—the Body we Cherish, are the themes of Professor Johnston's volumes. In the bare enumeration we see the vast field of observation gone over; and yet in every separate department Chemistry has made its discoveries and won its triumphs.

One of the most interesting parts of this work is that devoted to the Narcotics we indulge in. Here the lovers of "the luxuriant weed" will find a full account of the culture, properties, and chemical composition of their favourite; whilst those who condemn the use of this and other narcotics will do well to ponder over the curious fact of their almost universal employment by man.—

"Siberia has its fungus—Turkey, India, and China, their opium—Persia, India, and Turkey, with all Africa from Morocco to the Cape of Good Hope, and even the Indians of Brazil, have their hemp and haschisch—India, China, and the Eastern Archipelago their betel-nut and betel-pepper—the Polynesian islands their daily ava—Peru and Bolivia their long-used coca—New Granada and the Himalayas their red and common thorn-apples—Asia and America, and all the world, we may say, their tobacco—the Florida Indians their emetic holly—Northern Europe and America their ledum and sweet gale—the Englishman and German their hop, and the Frenchman his lettuce. No nation so ancient but has had its narcotic soother from the most distant times—none so remote and isolated but has found within its own borders a pain-killer and narcotic acid-dispeller of native growth—none so savage which instinct has not led to seek for, and successfully to employ, this form of physiological indulgence. The craving for such indulgence, and the habit of gratifying it, are little less universal than the desire for, and the practice of, consuming the necessary materials of our common food. Thus it may be estimated that the several narcotics are used—

Tobacco	among	800	millions of men.
Opium	"	400	
Hemp	"	200 to 300	"
Betel	"	100	"
Coca	"	10	"

A tendency which is so evidently a part of our general human nature, is not to be suppressed or extinguished by any form of mere physical, fiscal, or statutory restraint. It may sometimes be discouraged or repressed by such means, but even this lesser result is not always attainable. This was proved by the failure of the Spaniards, in their attempts to check the consumption of coca in Peru, of kings and priests to prohibit the spread of smoking in Europe and Western Asia, and more recently by the similar failure of the Imperial crusade against the use of opium in China. An empire may be overthrown by inconsiderate statutory intermeddling with the natural instincts, the old habits, or the growing customs of a people, while the instincts and habits themselves are only strengthened and confirmed."

In the chapter on the Poisons, we suspect that many will be astonished to find that substances, regarded as poisons too terrible almost for medicinal use with us, are used as a means of developing the normal powers of the system in other countries. Thus, in Styria, Lower Austria, and Hungary, the practice prevails of eating arsenic, not for the sake of its pleasurable effects, but for the purpose of developing personal beauty and increasing the strength of the body. The facts brought forward are numerous and conclusive. Prof. Johnston thus speculates on the use of such substances.—

"The perusal of the above facts regarding arsenic—taken in connexion with what has been previously stated as to the effects of the resin of hemp—recalls to our mind the dreamy recollections of what we have been accustomed to consider as the fabulous fancies of easy and credulous times. Love-philtres, charms, and potions start up again as real things beneath the light of advancing science. From the influence of hemp and arsenic no heart seems secure—by their assistance no affection unattainable. The wise woman, whom the charmless female of the East consults, ministers to the desired one a philtre of haschisch, which deceives his imagination—cheats him into the belief that charms exist and attractive beauty, where there are none, and degrades him, as it were, of a love which, with the truth before him, he would never have yielded. She acts directly upon his brain with her hempen potion, leaving the unlovely object he is to admire really as unlovely as before. But the Styrian peasant-girl, stirred by an unconsciously growing attachment—confiding scarcely to herself her secret feelings, and taking counsel of her inherited wisdom only—really adds, by the use of hidri, to the natural graces of her filling and rounding form, paints with brighter hues her blushing cheeks and tempting lips, and imparts a new and winning lustre to her sparkling eye. Every one sees and admires the reality of her growing beauty: the young men sound her praises, and become suppliants for her favour. She triumphs over the affections of all, and compels the chosen one to her feet. Thus even cruel arsenic, so often the minister of crime and the parent of sorrow, bears a blessed jewel in its forehead, and, as a love-awakener, becomes at times the harbinger of happiness, the soother of ardent longings, the bestower of contentment and peace! It is probable that the use of these and many other love-potions has been known to the initiated from very early times—now given to the female to enhance her real charms—now administered to the lords of the creation, to add imaginary beauties to the unattractive. And out of this use must often have sprung fatal results,—to the female, as is now sometimes the case in Styria, from the incautious use of the poisonous arsenic; to the male, as happens daily in the East from the maddening effects of the fiery hemp. They must also have given birth to many hidden crimes which only romance now collects and preserves—the ignorance of the learned having long ago pronounced them unworthy of belief."

In this book the curious in such matters will find an interesting account of the progress of Chemistry in the discovery of the natural compounds which give scents to fruits and flowers and the bouquet to wines. The chemist will evidently soon make us independent of the vegetable kingdom for the "odours we enjoy." We might take exception to some of Prof.

Johnston's physiological views; but where physiologists differ, we must allow chemists to take one side or the other.

## NEW NOVELS.

*Thorney Hall: the Story of an Old Family.* By Holme Lee. London, Smith, Elder & Co.

We consider 'Thorney Hall' to mark a great improvement upon 'Maude Talbot,' the first work of this author, which was reviewed in the *Athenæum* last year [No. 1375]. The subject of both stories is "Family Pride,"—a different phase being treated in each. In 'Maude Talbot' it was the barren pride in mere antiquity of descent,—in the dry bones of ancestors and the possession of family monuments,—without care or respect for the heroic qualities which alone can ennoble a house, and enable it to subsist through generations of chance and change. It was the dying out of an old family from sheer moral inanition. In 'Thorney Hall' family pride is shown as an ennobling motive of action, inducing the exercise of courage, self-denial, and unswerving persistence in following out an object once adopted as worthy—the result is, the building up and renewal of a once noble family fallen into decay. In both 'Maude Talbot' and 'Thorney Hall,' it is a sister who is the presiding influence in the story. 'Thorney Hall' is far the more interesting of the two stories: there is much quiet unobtrusive power evinced, and it is combined with a thoroughly healthy and invigorating tone of thought and feeling. It develops the practical heroism that lies in the most dull and unromantic duties of daily life, for all who do them with a noble motive.

We like the introductory sketch, which is extremely well managed. 'Thorney Hall,' with all its lands, which had been in the same family for six hundred years, has at last been squandered and gambled away by an unworthy descendant,—who, unable to endure the ruin he has brought, *dies suddenly*, leaving two sons and a daughter. The ghastly mystery connected with this old man's death is very well indicated. The daughter of the old squire devotes herself and the fortune she has inherited from her mother to keep a home for her brothers, and to save at least the old hall and a remnant of the estate for them,—living herself in penury and seclusion to give them education and launch them in the world. The elder brother, who is his father over again, sinks the family into irretrievable ruin. The family hall passes into the hands of others, and the estates become the possession of strangers. The elder brother is obliged to fly the country, and the sister goes with him;—whilst the younger brother sinks into obscure mediocrity. The character of Miss Grisell Randal is an excellent sketch: her quiet untiring devotion to her brother, her stoical endurance of the utter ruin of all her hopes, and the mournful but noble silence with which she sits down in sight of the old hall, making no secret of her poverty, and no complaint until she dies,—her whole life seeming to have been nothing more than labour and great sorrow.

But it was not so in reality;—and this is the idea in the book which has pleased us. Miss Grisell's example has a living influence; and although she did not herself see the hope of her life realized, it still bears its fruit in the next generation. Nothing truly noble is ever lost. One of the grandsons of her younger brother determines to restore the family to its ancient consequence: it is one of those determinations that is the incantation of a strong will, seldom failing to work out its own fulfilment. He is attended by his sister,—named Grisell, after

their great-aunt,—who, without an idea of being anything more than a plain, conscientious young woman, anxious to do her duty day by day as it arises, stands beside her brother, strengthening him, watching over him, devoting herself to him so long as he needs her;—then leading her own life as a wife and mother,—seeming to take up the tangled and troubled web of her aunt's life, and to work it out to a true and worthy result. The story of the fortunes of the brother and sister is extremely interesting. The character of Hugh Randal is well drawn and sustained: his success in the grand object of his life—the restoration of the family to its former state—and the mortal sorrow that dims all the beauty of the hope almost as soon as realized, giving him days of darkness instead of joy, give an interest to the book, which is only kept from being tragic by the skill with which it is softened into "the milder grief of pity."

Our remarks show that we think well of this book; but we are mistaken if the author be not capable of producing something still better. There is occasionally a lack of force and a slurring over of details which ought to be clearly made out; and this often leaves the effect dim when the idea is excellent.

*North and South.* By the Author of 'Mary Barton.' 2 vols. Chapman & Hall.

We imagine that this year of war will produce few better tales than 'North and South,'—which its author has gathered from the columns of a weekly contemporary, retouched and extended. The Author of 'Mary Barton' possesses some of an artist's best qualities. She will be attended to, having never as yet written without engaging the reader's interest, whether he agrees with or dissents from her philosophies. Her dialogue is natural,—her eye for character is keen. She enjoys humour, obviously,—she calls out pathos skilfully. Few things have been met in modern fiction more touching than the fading away of the poor girl to whom Margaret Hale attaches herself on removing from the South to a manufacturing town in Lancashire. The poetical Methodism of this girl,—the homely, uncomplaining affection,—the mixture of rudeness and of reverence with which she looks up to the delicately-nurtured Lady, make up an admirable picture. The Author of 'Mary Barton' seems bent on doing for Lancashire and the Lancashire dialect what Miss Edgeworth did for Ireland and Scott for the land across the border. There has been no use of English *patois* in English fiction comparable to hers. She has strong Lancashire sympathies, too:—if they be class-sympathies such as propel her to a somewhat disproportionate exposure of the trials and sufferings of the poor, her excess is a generous one, and not accompanied by that offensive caricaturing of her more "conventional" heroes and heroines, which must always bring the sincerity of the caricaturist displaying it under question.

In another point the Author of 'North and South' is open to remonstrance. She deals with difficulties of morals needlessly, and too fearlessly, because, as we have again and again said, the riddle propounded cannot be solved in fiction; and because by all one-sided handling of such matters,—when passions become engaged and generous feelings are persuaded, and when the temptation must be dwelt upon as cruel, in apology for the offence,—there is always a danger of unmanning the eager and the inexperienced from their anchorage. The flat lie which Margaret Hale is made to tell in order to secure the escape of her brother, is gratuitous, painful,—staggering as an incident, and without useful result as a lesson. We cannot, in our hearts, blame Margaret; yet the author,

by the sufferings which followed as consequence, takes pains to show how blame-worthy Margaret was. A kindred dilemma, it will be recollected, is to be found in the author's 'Ruth,'—which, in place of aiding, interfered with the advocacy of the cause which was the argument of that novel. Here the motive of the incident is less obvious. In real, actual life, blameable, cowardly, and selfish is the man who turns away from dealing with difficulties so terrible. They must be faced, with such honour, such charity, such disposition to excuse, and such power to weigh good and evil as can be summoned; but to thrust them forward in Fiction (where only artistic truth is possible) amounts, in deed, if not in purpose, to a wilful "playing with fire." It should be added, however, that the tenor and tissue of our author's writings are such as to satisfy us that no wilfulness has been in her mind, but an earnest, if a mistaken, desire to do good.

*Life of Thomas Young, M.D.* By George Peacock, D.D. Murray.

*Miscellaneous Works of Thomas Young, M.D.* 3 vols. Murray.

Thomas Young, the eldest of ten children, was born at Milverton, in Somersetshire, on the 13th of June, 1773. His parents were Quakers, occupying a respectable station in the middle ranks of life. Young was brought up in the strict discipline of that sect, and was accustomed in after-life to attribute his extraordinary power and success in acquiring and retaining information in every variety of human knowledge to the abiding influence of his early religious training. The following extract from an autobiographical fragment, giving an account of his early studies shows his precocity and grasp of intellect.—

"For the greatest part of the first seven years of my life, I was an inmate in the house of my maternal grandfather, Mr. Robert Davis, a merchant of great respectability, who lived at Minehead, in Somersetshire. At two years of age I had learned to read with considerable fluency, and I subsequently used to attend the school of a village schoolmistress, besides being taught at home by my aunt Mary Davis. Under their instructions I read the Bible twice through, and also Watts's Hymns, before I was four years of age. Being naturally fond of reading, I was supplied with the usual run of children's books, and I well recollect the effect produced on my mind by the first perusal of Gulliver's Travels. From my earliest years I was in the habit of committing pieces of poetry to memory, such as Pope's Messiah, his Universal Prayer, Parnell's Hermit, Rack's Lavinia, and many others. When six years old I learnt by heart the whole of Goldsmith's Deserted Village."

After remaining some months at home, during which time he studied scientific books with, as he says, "the most intense interest and delight," he went to school at Compton, in Dorsetshire, where he remained four years. During this period his studies comprehended a wide range in science and literature, including Greek, Hebrew, and Persian. These extraordinary and premature acquisitions naturally attracted considerable attention, and they were soon made useful by his being appointed preceptor, when little more than fourteen years, to Mr. Hudson Gurney, who was Young's junior by only a year and a half. The two boys were subsequently joined by Mr. Hodgkin, who had the general superintendence of young Gurney's studies, though his youthful preceptor continued to retain his office for five years. Young always considered this period of his life as the most profitable with respect both to mental and moral cultivation and improvement. He certainly made great progress in his studies, for the first entry in his journal when he assumed the office of preceptor contains a statement of

his having written out specimens of the Bible in thirteen different languages.

When the time arrived to make choice of a profession he decided on that of medicine; but while studying for his degree the Duke of Richmond, then Master of the Ordnance, to whom he had been introduced by his uncle, Dr. Brocklesby—the friend of Johnson and Burke—offered him the situation of his private secretary. In a letter to his mother, he referred to this offer:—

"I have very lately refused the pressing offer of a situation which would have been the most favourable and flattering introduction to political life that a young man in my circumstances could desire. I might have lived at a duke's table, with a salary of 200*l.* a year, as his secretary, and with hopes of a more lucrative appointment in a short time. I should have been in an agreeable family, have had time enough for study, a library, a laboratory, and philosophical apparatus at my service; and I was not ashamed to allege my regard for our Society as a principal reason for my not accepting the proposal."

These religious scruples were not of long standing. A few months after declining the appointment he went to Edinburgh, where he cast off Quakerism, and entered into the gaieties of that city, which, however, did not materially interfere with his medical studies. From Edinburgh he removed to Göttingen. His great facility in acquiring languages enabled Young to seize the full import of the philosophical lectures by the German professors, and we soon find him plunged in all the deep subtleties of German metaphysics. After graduating and taking a Doctor's degree, he proceeded to Cambridge, where he completed his medical studies. In 1797 Dr. Brocklesby died, leaving Young his house in London and 10,000*l.*

Though now established as a physician, his love for science materially interfered with his professional success. As early as 1799 he wrote his celebrated memoir, 'Outlines and Experiments respecting Sound and Light,' which was read before the Royal Society, printed in their *Transactions*, and which speedily conducted him to the discovery of the kindred principles of optical interferences. "This discovery alone," says Sir J. Herschel, "would have sufficed to have placed its author in the highest rank of scientific immortality, even were his other almost innumerable claims to such a distinction disregarded." His other papers, 'On the Theory of Light and Colours,' followed, which received from the Council of the Royal Society the honour of being selected for the Bakerian Lectures. In 1801, Dr. Young accepted the office of Professor of Natural Philosophy at the Royal Institution, and in 1802 that of Foreign Secretary to the Royal Society,—an office which he held for the remainder of his life, and for which he was well qualified by his familiarity with the principal European languages.

In connexion with his Royal Institution professorship, he delivered a series of sixty lectures, which form the substance of his great work, on 'Natural Philosophy and the Mechanical Arts.' On the completion of this work, he turned his attention to the publication of a medical work, the nature of which will be gathered from the following letter addressed to a friend:—

"I believe your pheasants have assisted in bringing my friend Davy into a hundred a year and the office of Secretary of the Royal Society. It had never occurred to him to offer himself till I suggested it to him one day that he dined with me. The next day he heard of poor Gray's death, and upon applying to the President, he was, after some deliberation, approved, although another person had before been encouraged. If I had not been a member of an *illiberal* profession, I should have liked the situation myself; but perhaps the public is right in discouraging a divided attention. I purpose seriously to do something in physic, by collecting all that is

worth knowing, and comparing it with the general economy of the operations of Nature. I do not know who has attempted to do this soberly: Darwin had neither patience nor precision enough; and I am confident that much more may be learnt and taught in this way than from a routine of old woman's practice, which is all that a fashionable physician obtains. In many other departments of science I have been enabled to draw conclusions from a comparison of the experiments of others, which I should have been much longer in discovering by investigations of my own; and *why not in physic?*"

Dr. Young regarded the science of medicine as a branch of inductive philosophy; and his medical work, which includes a system of practical Nosology, bears much the same relation to the medical, as his lectures do to the mathematical and physical sciences.

While engaged in his professional and scientific labours, Dr. Young wrote numerous papers in the *Quarterly Review*,—and contributed sixty-three articles to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, of which forty-six were biographical.

We can only afford space for a passing allusion to Dr. Young's hieroglyphical researches. Those interested in this subject will find it fully treated by his biographer, who shows very conclusively that he had made great progress in the discovery of phonetic hieroglyphics many years before Champollion appeared in the field.

The frequent demands made by Government on the Council of the Royal Society for scientific advice called Dr. Young's services into requisition. Thus, we find him acting as Secretary to a Commission for ascertaining the length of a seconds pendulum,—Secretary to the Board of Longitude,—and superintendent of the *Nautical Almanac*. Yet with this accession of labour, he found time to pursue his optical discoveries and to institute important and original researches on the value of life and life assurance, besides various other scientific investigations,—the results of which he communicated to the Royal Society. Scientific honours followed. Societies at home and abroad enrolled him among their honorary members; and in 1826 he was elected one of the eight Foreign Associates of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

Amidst all these labours, a complaint, from which he had been suffering some time, became more troublesome. The harassing effects of personal attacks, with reference to his management of the *Nautical Almanac*, aggravated the disease which terminated his existence on the 10th of May, 1829. The complaint proved to be ossification of the aorta, which must have been in progress many years, and every appearance indicated a premature old age, the result of unwearyed and incessant mental labour. His remains were interred at Farnborough, in Kent, and an appropriate monument was erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey.

In reviewing Dr. Young's scientific life and labours, in connexion with Davy and Wollaston, Dr. Peacock observes:—

"The lapse of a quarter of a century, since the grave—within the brief space of six months—closed upon the labours of these three eminent philosophers, has somewhat changed the order in which they were classed by their contemporaries. If Young held the lowest place in the order of precedence then, he unquestionably occupies the highest now. The most brilliant achievements of Davy, whether considered singly or collectively, are probably surpassed in importance by the discovery and demonstration of the interference of light; but whilst the first received the prompt and unhesitating acknowledgment of the scientific world, and at once secured for their author the honours and rewards which were due to his merits, the second, even after emerging from a long period of misrepresentation and neglect, had to make its way, step by step as it were, and with various and fluctuating fortunes, against the opposition of adverse and long-established

theories, supported by the authority of the two greatest men known to the scientific history of the past and the present age; and it only received a tardy and reluctant recognition—and that rather by implication than avowedly—when near the close of his life, the Rumford medal was awarded by the Royal Society to Fresnel, who completed the structure of which Dr. Young had laid the foundations."

In truth, Dr. Young was an extraordinary being; and the scientific world will feel grateful to his widow for having urged Dr. Peacock with affectionate solicitude to enlarge a short introductory memoir of her husband, which he proposed prefixing to his works, to the full but not prolix life occupying the present volume. He has executed his task with judgment; and the subject of his biography will be raised to the high position which he would have occupied long since had his merits been more widely known. Henceforth Dr. Young will, as Arago predicted, take rank as one of the greatest of modern English philosophers. We have only to add, in conclusion, that the first and second volumes of the 'Works' contain Dr. Young's scientific memoirs, biographies, &c., edited by Dr. Peacock, and the third volume his hieroglyphical essays and correspondence, edited by Mr. John Leitch.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Science and Mechanism: illustrated by Examples in the New York Exhibition, 1853-4. With Annotations and Notes relating to the Progress and Present State of Applied Science, and of the Useful Arts.* Edited by C. R. Goodrich, aided by Profs. Hall, Silliman, &c. (New York, Putnam & Co.)—In this annotated catalogue of the New York Exhibition, there is a list, generally descriptive, of the objects exhibited in each class, with brief notes to explain the nature and origin of particular articles, or the processes involved in their manufacture. It is avowed in the Preface that, with few deviations, the plan of the Annotated Catalogue of the London Exhibition has been followed. There appears to have been a defect in the method of obtaining information from exhibitors, so that the statistics of the work are incomplete. The illustrations are few, and, for the most part, paltry. They were supplied by exhibitors, at their own expense, and some of them resemble the woodcuts attached to advertisements in county and colonial journals. We may remark in more favourable terms on the literary portion, executed by Mr. Goodrich and several other gentlemen whose names are given with their contributions. To the classification of products of the American soil some extremely interesting details are appended on the geological history of the continent, and the character of its mineral resources. If Art and Science, however, are sister powers in America, as elsewhere, they are certainly not twins, for the descriptions of works of imagination and fancy suggest little purity or elevation of taste. In decorative design, architectural or cabinet, the productions of the New York artificers by no means excel. They are heavy, rude, and rough. But in mechanics we observe surprising progress, insomuch that the territories of the Union are likely, at no distant period, to be covered with the mightiest works of an industrial civilization. So rapidly are these material advances made that the national orators may boast without rebuke and extol themselves with impunity from satire, for their country rises above panegyric, and grows so swiftly that, as Burke said, we cease to dispute that we may begin to wonder; while we are calculating the exaggeration ends. As Mr. Goodrich reminds us, the greatest results of American enterprise are those which no Crystal Palace could contain:—the Crotone Aqueduct, and the immense web of railways and canals. The quarto volume now published, as a companion to 'The World of Art and Industry,' abounds in varied though fragmentary matter, and goes far to conclude the history of the New York Exhibition, which the former publication left incomplete. Had the engravings harmonized more fully with the high pretensions of the work, there

would have been few deficiencies to regret, except such omissions of detail as the editor imputes to the exhibitors.

*My Life; or, the Autobiography of a Village Curate.* By Eliza R. Rowe. (Vizetelly.)—This is a mild, innocent story enough, without much freshness, although there is an evident absence of authorcraft. It is, however, very well intentioned; and will, perhaps, find a circle of readers of its own.

*Catalogue of Specimens illustrative of the Composition and Manufacture of British Pottery and Porcelain, from the Occupation of Britain by the Romans to the present Time.* By Sir Henry De la Beche, C.B., and Trenham Reeks.—The collection, of which we have a catalogue before us, is unique and is the property of the public. It illustrates a very interesting branch of British industry. Those who feel any desire to trace the history or to examine examples of English pottery and porcelain should visit the Museum of Practical Geology in Jermyn Street. This Catalogue contains a concise but valuable history of these branches of British industry, embracing many new and curious facts. It is illustrated with 150 wood engravings, is a royal octavo volume of 200 pages, and is sold to the public for one shilling.

*Leaves from a Family Journal.* From the French of Émile de Souvestre. (Groombridge & Sons.)—This is a very entertaining little book. We wish with all our hearts it were true; or that there were the least likelihood that anything like it could come to pass in this wicked world of reality, in which we are obliged for our sins to serve our time. King Solomon used to say, "A word spoken in season, how good is it":—how good, we never guessed till we read these "Leaves." They contain the history of a most exemplary young couple, who, although endowed with many virtues, are still only mortal, and fall into many errors; but there is a father—a perfect sage—and an aunt, who must have learnt wisdom from the lips of Penelope herself; and these two amiable individuals are always at hand to make the wrong right, not with the touch of a magic wand, like the good genius in a pantomime, but with that much-despised article—"Good Advice." Good advice in real life never has a fair chance of showing what it can do, for nobody takes it; but in this tale, "Good Advice" has the field all to itself,—"a fair field," as one may say, and plenty of "favour"; and certainly no fairy godmother, no benevolent magician, has worked more wonders than Good Advice achieves when it is well followed, as it is in this story from the first page to the last. The young couple get into all manner of sorrows, and troubles, and mistakes; but this only makes more manifest the wonderful virtues of "Good Advice" to extricate them. It is a true enchanter for all who know how to use it. Never did Parr, or Holloway, or Ward of the famous "Drop," or the fabled fountain of perpetual youth do so much to cut off that "heritage of woe" as that wise father and that good aunt accomplish in the pages of the "Family Journal"; to which we commend our readers, with our blessing.

*On the Study of Language: an Exposition of Επεια Ηπειρόντα, or, the Diversions of Purley, by John Horne Tooke.* By C. Richardson, LL.D. (Bell.)—The venerable octogenarian, whose celebrated English Dictionary bears many traces of familiarity and sympathy with Horne Tooke's ingenious speculations, here presents to the public a systematic exposition of them, derived from papers drawn up many years ago. By so doing he renders acceptable service to those who may wish to know something of Tooke's doctrines, and yet have not the time or means to consult the two quarto volumes in which they are embodied. With every disposition to recognize the many merits of that remarkable work—the Diversions—especially considering the state of philological knowledge at the time of its composition,—we cannot go so far as Dr. Richardson, who appears quite to idolize its once famous author, and to receive his dicta with unquestioning faith. Were the reverend politician and antagonist of Junius now living, and aware—as he certainly would be—of the immense

progress made in philological science since his time, he would be the first to renounce the errors which his aged disciple holds up to the admiration of the world as magnificent discoveries. He might see reason to question the scientific soundness of starting with the principle that all words,—even indeclinable particles, such as conjunctions and prepositions,—are resolvable into nouns and verbs, and capable of explanation from them. He would certainly recant many of the derivations into which he was led. For instance, he would hardly derive the Latin *decem*, and the Greek *εἴκα*, from *εἰκόθαι*, if he were familiar with the researches of Grimm, Pott, and Bopp; nor would he trace the English word *just* to the Latin participle *jussum*, and explain it as "that which is ordered or commanded." Still less would he speak of the Latin as "a mere modern language compared with the Anglo-Saxon," and as being composed mainly of Greek and partly of Teutonic. Dr. Richardson's part of the present exposition is, on the whole, worthy of the rank he holds. We could have wished, however, that he had been a little less pugnacious and diffuse in his metaphysical discussions,—which are, to say the least, rather beside the mark, and sometimes border on useless quibbling.

*The System of the Universe; or, a Treatise on the Laws of Matter and Motion.* By An Observer (Houston & Stoneman).—The author of this treatise undertakes to refute Newton without reading him. He has not the philosopher's work at hand, and, therefore, goes to Helsham's Lecturer. From this circumstance, we may take the exact measure of his logical faculty. He thinks he may explode Newton's theory without being at the pains to examine the reasoning on which it is founded. What his own peculiar notion is we are unable to detect,—unless it be, that matter moves without impulse; but the style of the volume is so hazy, and the illustrations are so confused, that we have failed to discover the author's real intention. All that is certain is, that his "system" contradicts that of Newton, and that he believes himself to be the first and only Light of the world. Professing to assume nothing, he assumes everything, and, most easily of all, that his doctrine rests on its "irrefutability." We believe, however, that a spark of modesty glimmers through the following lines, which occur after a warning to "pass nothing by as a principle which is incomprehensible!"—"For the neglect of this care, in principles, has entailed upon us every absurdity now taught, as it will all others to the end of time; and, probably, this system of the universe among the rest." Whatever intelligence the author may possess is clouded by his arrogance and by his want of ability to express himself in clear terms. He admits that mankind is likely to reject his ideas; but hints, like Voltaire, "so much the worse for mankind."

The "Congregational Lectures" issued this year consist of a course, by R. Alliot, LL.D., on *Psychology and Theology; or, Psychology applied to the Investigation of Questions relating to Religion, Natural Theology and Revelation.* We have no mission to discuss the author's topics, but we may express our approval of his method. He takes up the challenges of honest thinkers without that tone of indisputable supremacy to which many of his order are addicted.—We may hand over to Dr. Cumming and his readers the Rev. N. S. Godfrey's *Conflict and the Triumph; or, the Things that are Coming on the Earth*, in which the writer states distinctly, not anything that has been, but all that is to be, though he argues that his rivals in prophecy are looking through the wrong end of the telescope.—*The Restoration of Belief* is concluded in a third part, on the miracles.—We have also, in connexion with abstract religion, a Lecture, by J. Brewin Grant, in answer to the inquiry *Is Man Responsible for his Belief?*—and *One Thousand Questions on the New Testament*, by a Teacher.—The same subject, in its relation to social life, is investigated in Mr. David Pirret's *Ethics of the Sabbath*. The essayist leaps from assertion to assertion, and fancies he is ratiocinating; like the French exquisite who argued that Paris was the finest city in the world,—that he was the best dressed man in Paris,—and that, therefore, he was

the best dressed man in the world. We confess ourselves unable to follow whither Mr. Pirret would lead.—At the head of Anti-Papal publications we have Dr. Merle d'Aubigné's *Church and Church Diet; or, Kirchentag*,—not so eloquent as his writings habitually are, but liberal and logical.—The Rev. J. Taylor has addressed *A Respectful, but Earnest Remonstrance to the Bishops of the English Church*, concerning Puseyism, which is rather too earnest and anything but respectful.—It is enough for *Reformatio Fidei Confessio, sive Communia Religionis Christianae Principia, in Articulos Duotriginta digesta*, since the title speaks for itself, with the addition *Opera Presbyteri Anglicani*.—*Peace*, a Sermon, by the Rev. J. A. Emerton, is a sensible and feeling discourse on the war.—The only other *Sermons* we have are by the Rev. A. P. Mendes, who has addressed a volume of them to the Jews, full of pious sentiment and Scriptural learning.—In suitable companionship with these are Miss Charlotte Montefiore's *Few Words to the Jews*,—florid, but elegant and earnest. Miss Montefiore's book is conceived in a friendly, though an admonitory spirit.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Butler's *Travels and Adventures in the Province of Assam*, 12s. cl. (Bennet.)—*The Redeemer's Final Triumph*, fc. svo. 3s. cl. (Connelly.)—*Histories of the English Monarchs*, 12s. cl. (Copland's.)—*Reign of Terror*, edited by Smith, fc. svo. 6s. cl. (Cotton's.)—*H. H. Rheem and Doway*, svo. 9s. cl. (Hibbert's.)—*Experimental Researches in Electricity*, Vol. 3, svo. 12s. cl. (Faraud's.)—*Every Boy's Bible*, 12s. cl. (Faussett's.)—*Fraser's Sermons preached before University of Oxford*, 12s. cl. (Henderson's (Mrs. M. A.) *Memoir*, by her Husband, fc. svo. 2s. cl. (Hibbert's (S.) *Town Garden*, 18mo. 2s. cl. (Hook's) *Sayings and Doings*, "Passion and Principle," 12s. cl. (Bud's.)—*Light in the Dark*, 12s. cl. (Hunt's) *Light Stories in Verse*, fc. svo. 3s. cl. (Lewin's) *Credibility of Early Roman History*, 3 vols. 3vo. 30s. cl. (Light from the Lantern of Diogenes, 8vo. 12s. svd. (Lingard's) *History of England*, People's Edition, Vol. 9, 3s. cl. (Mackenzie's) *Mariology*, 3rd edit., 18mo. 12s. cl. (Mackenzie's) *History of the English Church*, 12s. cl. (Osborne's (Hon.) and Rev. S. G.) *Hospitals at Scutari*, 12s. cl. (Piper's) *Dictionary of War Implements and War Terms*, 12s. cl. (Powell's (Rev. B.) *Unity of Worlds*, &c., post svo. 12s. cl. (Rafter's) *Capit. Our Indian Army*, fc. svo. 5s. cl. (Robertson's) *Scenes in New Mexico*, 12s. cl. (Robertson's) *Scenes in the American West*, 12s. cl. (Robertson's) *Scenes in the American South*, 12s. cl. (Robertson's) *Scenes in the American West*, 12s. cl. (Tegoborski's (M. S. De) *Production of Russia*, Vol. 1, 14s. cl. (Tottenham's (Rev. E.) *Remains*, edited by Magee, fc. svo. 7s. cl. (Useful Lib.) "White's Landmarks to History of England," 12s. cl. (Voices of the Seven Thunders, royal 8vo. 2s. cl. (Will's (A.) *Vestryman's Guide*, 12mo. 4s. cl. (Young's (Rev. J.) *The Christ of History*, post svo. 7s. cl. 6s. cl.

#### NEWS IN AMERICA.

VARIOUS presses have expressed alarm that the removal of the newspaper stamp would overwhelm them with rivals, who, pirating the news purchased by their older established brethren, would speedily drive them from the field. American experience does not prove so. I may dismiss as absurd a supposition which implied that were the stamp removed from the country edition of the *Athenæum*, for instance, its readers would cease to take it, and would buy upstart sheets instead. Although the instances of the *Athenæum* and of a newspaper are not precisely analogous, there is some similarity between them. Established papers, literary or news-giving, would continue established. Inferior sheets might spring up,—create for themselves a few readers, —and eventually die out and disappear. A few of the aspirants might grow stout and strong, and become institutions. But the probabilities are all in favour of the papers already in healthy existence retaining their vitality. Of course I speak with reference to what experience has proved, and do not advance a mere opinion. Besides, the more papers the more readers. Experience has proved that. There is, possibly, no individual above the age of twelve years in any considerable city of the free States of America who does not see, or hear read, at least two papers daily.

There is, however, a method adopted in the United States which has, in reality, almost all the effect of a copyright of news. This is an adaptation of the principle of *association*. Robert Chambers in his notes on "Things as they are in America" briefly, but imperfectly, advert to the subject. As it happens, I represent here, in England, that association, and perhaps that circumstance may justify this reference to it.

New York, as I have said, is the metropolis of news,—and indeed in all respects is the metropolis

of the United States. The principal daily papers of New York are the *Courier and Enquirer*, *Journal of Commerce*, *Express*, *Commercial Advertiser*, *Evening Post*, *Herald*, *Tribune*, *Times*, and *Sun*. Persons conversant with the periodical press will recognize in these names influential papers occupying in America the position that the *Times*, *Daily News*, *Morning Chronicle*, *Morning Post*, *Morning Advertiser*, &c. do in England. They are of all shades of politics, and are continually attacking each other in a manner that is, at least, energetic. Except in respect to the possession of early intelligence, their interests are entirely conflicting and competing. They are united, notwithstanding, in the closest business relations, under the name of "The New York Associated Press." All other papers not within the pale of this association are known, familiarly, as "outsiders." It is open to any outsider to enter into the association, on payment of a due proportion of the expenses. It is precisely, in newspapers, what the Anglo-French association is in Europe, an alliance open to all for the common good.

The Associated Press charge themselves with the collection of all news, and with its distribution to the members of the association. It must be borne in mind that the Americans would not tolerate for a moment the sale of news by telegraph companies, —a system which, in the opinion of American business men, is thoroughly rotten, deceptive, and destructive of confidence in the telegraph as the depository of secrets. Consequently, the press charge themselves with an organized collection of news. The expenses borne in the first instance by the wealthy proprietor of the nine papers above named are something enormous. A proportion is, however, repaid by the papers in alliance with the association, and it is found to meet expectations in a business point of view, otherwise, it may be safely inferred, it would not be continued. The machinery is apparently complicated, but really simple. A central office, under experienced management, is maintained in New York, separate from the private offices of the newspapers. The general arrangement is totally distinct from the private correspondence of the papers. In every town of importance in the United States and British American provinces are paid agents of the association,—men already respectably connected with the local press. The duty of these agents is, night or day, to telegraph whatever occurs of interest, not to the newspapers, but to the central office, whence it is re-distributed. Take, for example, the foreign news. Liverpool, being the port of departure of the mail steamers which convey the much-looked-for news from Europe, is an important station; and hence the press maintain an office there, of which the annual outlay for news and papers is not much short of 1,000*l.*, while the receipts are—nothing. Liverpool is likewise a central station, secondary to the chief office in New York; and to it are forwarded correspondence from various parts of Britain and the Continent. At Southampton, also, a gentleman is charged with the transmission of intelligence by the mail steamers from that port. Every mail steamer that leaves Europe for America carries out ten packets of "copy" one for each of the above-named papers, with one for the central office, and all ready to place in the printers' hands, but subject, of course, to the tone of each paper and to the supervision of its editors. Each alternate week a *résumé* of 3,000 words of the European intelligence, prepared in the Liverpool office, is telegraphed from Halifax, Nova Scotia—the point at which the mail steamers first make the American coast—to the office in New York, a distance of 700 miles, at a cost of about 100*l.* This intelligence is concealed in various shapes of cipher, all having their respective uses and destinations. Instantly on arrival at the central office copies are handed to the newspapers in New York, while some of the cipher forms are telegraphed east, others south, and others to the most westerly towns of the Union, but only to members of the association. At a given signal the news is simultaneously published in all parts of America, 1,000 or 2,000 miles apart, to the huge astonishment of British travellers, and (by appliances which it is

not necessary here to explain) not unfrequently before the steamer has arrived at her wharf. Against such a system, at once so comprehensive and simple, piracy becomes contemptible, and to apply copyright to the news would not be worth the 2*s. 6d.* it would cost.

H.  
Liverpool, April 3.

#### FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Naples, March 24.

THE sleep of the tomb seems to have fallen upon the mind of this city of the Syrens. No new works issue from the press; no new idea is expressed,—nothing that indicates the slightest intellectual activity; and as far as is apparent, no angel is at hand to come down upon and stir the stagnant waters. In vain I inquire, or look over our literary journal,—some work on jurisprudence, or notices of antiquarian interest, or sonnets to a *prima donna*, are the only symptoms of movement; and but for these Naples may be said to sleep the sleep of the dead. Anxious to confirm the truth of my own impressions, I asked an intelligent bookseller, "What is going on in the literary world?"—"Nothing," was the answer. "Talent there is,—literary men we have, and very many, too,—but all are paralyzed by some noxious unseen influence. No one will dare to write where the free expression of opinion may lead to his ruin,—or if he dare, no one will care to write when his productions are sure to be emasculated by the priest and the censor. We are dead, sir; and it is my belief that we shall never rise again."—"And your trade?" I asked, "how is it going on?"—"We are doing nothing. Not that our books are arrested in the Custom House,—for we order comparatively none. Misfortune has taught us to what we are exposed, and how to avoid it. We are dead, sir; there is no hope for us. Is it not so?" he slyly asked, as if to extort some encouragement from me. It is dangerous, however, to enter on politics with a Neapolitan; and I adroitly evaded the question. It was a sad commentary upon his despair of, and yet his longing after, better things, that at this moment a burly, frowsy Franciscan friar presented himself at the door. My friend bounded towards him, and, taking his hand with profound veneration, kissed it; and, turning round to me, smiled sadly. Ah! thought I, that is one of the stray members of that incubus which sits upon and smothers the public mind. I must not follow out the idea in your pages; and, indeed, my notice of Naples I conclude with the only bit of literary news I can send you,—which is, that a new literary and artistic journal has just appeared under the title of *Rondinella*.

From other parts of Italy I send you the following *pot-pourri*. The Baron Camillo Ugoni, a man of some literary merit, is just dead. He was the author of an elegant translation of the *Commentaries of Cesar*, as also of *'Essays on Petrarch'*, written in English by Ugo Foscolo, and he wrote the *'Continuazione di Secoli della Letteratura Italiana'*, by Corniani. Andrea Maffei, who translated the tragedies of Schiller, is now engaged in translating *'Paradise Lost'*, and has already given to the world a portion of the Fourth Book as a specimen of his powers. It is said to be well executed. The following literary intelligence from Florence, too, will doubtless be of interest to your readers. The Signori Colombi have lately presented to the Ricciardi Library in that city 112 autograph letters of Muratori. It is well known how rich this Library is in MSS. and letters of eminent Italians; and the contribution which I have announced will go far to complete the bulky correspondence between Muratori and Giovanni Lami.

F.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

BETWEEN the days of Sir Isaac Newton and Sir John Herschel, the office of Master of the Mint has been a political office, the occupant of which, even when he was a man of letters and a man of genius, like Sheil, followed the fortunes of his party. With the appointment of Sir John Herschel, it was universally expected that so vicious a system had come to its natural term, and that

henceforward the Mastership of the Mint, like the Presidency of the Royal Academy, would follow a more stable law. For a time, it promised to do so. The changes from Lord John Russell to the Earls of Derby and Aberdeen both left Sir John in possession of the Mint. But when Lord Aberdeen retired a few months ago, Sir John resigned his office, and Lord Palmerston had to appoint a successor. It is creditable to him that he did not disturb the understanding that in future the Mint is to be managed by a man of science; and his nomination of Prof. Graham to the vacant post fulfills public expectation. But we cannot withhold an expression of regret and of hope. Sir John Herschel's retirement, perhaps unintentionally, coincided with the fall of Lord Aberdeen. This is what we regret, as creating a mischievous precedent. Our hope is, that Prof. Graham will not be compelled to adopt any party badge, or to contract any sort of obligation to retire with the Ministers. The Mint ought to be clear of politics; and we trust that in Prof. Graham's person it will attain the character of a permanent office.

We hear, with regret, from Yorkshire, of the death of Mrs. Nicol, better known as Miss Brontë, and best of all known as "Curer Bell,"—the literary title under which she fought her battle and won her reputation. Her end came very suddenly and unexpectedly: she only changed "her maiden state" last July, when she married the Rev. Mr. Nicol, her father's curate. The author of *Jane Eyre*, of *'Shirley'*, and of *'Villette'*, was a personage too much talked of in her day, and of too marked a peculiarity as a novelist, to pass out of remembrance. "Ellis" and "Acton," her two literary sisters, so fondly commemorated in one of her last productions, were already gone; and by the time these lines reach the reader the grave will have closed over the last of a band of "sisters three" as remarkable as ever grew together in a literary home. Mrs. Nicol died last Saturday, in the night, at her father's house, at Haworth, in Yorkshire.

The King of Prussia has presented to Mr. Birch, of the British Museum, a copy of the great work on Egypt published at Berlin, and edited by Chevalier Lepsius, entitled *'Denkmäler aus Aegypten und Aethiopien.'* The gift is a very graceful compliment, and one well earned.

In our remarks last week on the various appointments held by Sir Charles Eastlake we stated that the Presidency of the Royal Academy will become a paid office on the death of Lady Chantrey. More than one correspondent reminds us that, by a private arrangement of the Forty, Sir Charles already receives from the funds of the Academy 300*l.* a year for his services as President. The Treasurer, it is said, can certify the fact to any who may doubt. We had ourselves heard of this arrangement, and made no allusion to it because it is "private," and therefore subject to revision. In a few years, the President will have a legal income independent of the Academy. This was the point of our argument. Of course, the possession of a third salary—given in anticipation of the Chantrey provision—does not weaken the justice of a protest against accumulated offices in a single hand.

A Free Library and Reading-room, in connexion with the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, has been opened to the public. The hours of attendance are from ten till four o'clock. The Library includes a printed collection of all specifications filed since October 1, 1852, as well as a considerable number of those recorded under the old law.

The British Museum has just received a fresh importation from Nineveh, filling 159 cases. It comprises a miscellaneous collection of small slabs, seals, pottery, and other objects, bearing more upon the domestic life of the ancient inhabitants of Mesopotamia than the pieces hitherto received. This is what was wanted. We possess already as many of the large historical slabs as we know what to do with. We have acquired a tolerably clear idea of the king and the warrior,—what we now want is to see the Ninevite in his home.

When quoting a rather rapturous account of the discoveries at Argos from the pages of a contemporary, we expressed some doubts of the

results obtained, and asked our readers to postpone enthusiasm until more reliable accounts arrived. A Correspondent, who has just arrived from Athens, enables us to correct the too lively figures of our contemporary, and justifies our own word of caution. The excavations at Argos were carried on—not by order of the Greek Government, as was reported—but by Messrs. Rangabé & Bursian, at the expense of Prof. Ross. King Otho and the Greek Government, we are assured, took no other interest in the excavations than that of claiming the few fragments of sculpture discovered by those gentlemen by their own enterprise and at the cost of their patron. The importance of these fragments of ancient Greek Art has been greatly exaggerated, both in Rome and Berlin, as well as in London. Vague surmises about the recovery of the works of Polycletus may be very poetical;—speculations about a new series of sculptures to range with the Elgin Marbles may startle the curious;—but the discoveries at Argos yield no such treasures. As yet, the chief interest of the excavations lies in the fact of their having laid bare the foundations of the Temple of Juno.

Mr. Lance replies to a passage quoted last week from Mr. Stirling's work on Velasquez:—

" 36, Hart Street, Bloomsbury Square, April 4.

" In your number for March 31 a passage is quoted from Mr. Stirling's book, entitled 'Velasquez and his Works,' in which it is stated that, when before the 'Boat Hunt,' by the great Spanish master, at the National Gallery, and in the presence of the Committee, I 'very candidly admitted that the lapse of time had led me to exaggerate my own share of the work, and that a good deal of the original painting still survived.' The extract then goes on to state,

that 'the chasm which I had filled with mules was less in area by three-fourths than I had stated; and in these mules themselves I had been guided by the backs, necks, and ears, which had remained with tolerable distinctness, and enabled me to follow the design of the master.' 'So ended a story,' continues the author, 'which had amused the town for a day or two, that the picture, which the Trustees had purchased as an important work of the Castilian Vandyck, had really been executed by the English Van Huysum. No notice of this meeting at the National Gallery, at which I was present as a member of the Committee, occurs in the record of its proceedings. Mr. Lance's printed evidence (*Report and Minutes*, pp. 346-353), being most incomplete without it, the present note may serve, I hope, to supply the deficiency.' It is with great unwillingness that I revive this subject, and I am grateful to the author for comparing me with the unapproachable Dutch master; but truth compels me not to permit this assertion to pass, as the end of the story. To every word of my printed evidence I adhere. At Mr. Thane's request I worked daily for six weeks on the injured picture. Two persons, not belonging to my family, who know and can prove this, are still alive. When I was before the picture at the National Gallery, several of the Committee, not unfrequently more than one at a time, asked me questions such as 'Did you do this?' pointing to one part of the picture; 'Did you do that?' pointing to another part. I may have said that I could not, after such a lapse of time (nearly twenty years), speak with certainty as to every touch of mine on the picture. No doubt 'a good deal of the original painting still survived,' but I distinctly deny that I ever said or thought that the chasm which I filled was less in area by three-fourths than I had stated, or that in these mules I had been guided by the backs, necks and ears which had remained with tolerable distinctness, and enabled me to follow the design of the master. To the best of my recollection, the canvas where I put in the mules was entirely bare, as it was in many other parts, and the injury which the picture had sustained may be guessed by the time which was consumed in repairing it,—time which I very unwillingly gave up at the earnest entreaty of Mr. Thane, and which nothing but his distressed state of mind would have induced me to employ in that operation. The money which I received was no equivalent for what I did, for I neglected my own works to relieve the distress of Mr. Thane. I am, &c.

GEORGE LANCE."

The largest and finest diamond which has as yet been found in Brazil has recently been imported into Paris, and has received the name of the "Star of the South." In its rough state it weighs 807.02 grains, or 254.2 carats. When cut it will be reduced to about 127 carats, and will therefore exceed the Koh-i-noor in size. Independently of its magnitude, it possesses much scientific interest from the regularity of its crystalline forms, and the indications it affords of the mode in which the diamond occurs. The gem has been examined by a Committee of the French Academy of Sciences, who have reported on the best mode of cutting it. This is now being performed; after which it will be shown at the *Exposition*, but it will then have lost its scientific interest.

It has been decided, within the last few days, that the three separate buildings destined for the Exhibition at Paris shall be connected by gallery tunnel work. This will add an intricacy more to the tripartite composition, and an expense the more

to its construction. Meanwhile, the original and central *Palais* itself may be described as all but complete. It is now under the hands of the carpenters, in preparation for the exhibitors. "The judgment ventured last year," says the Correspondent who then offered a note or two concerning the plan, "has received confirmation by a new inspection of this large edifice,—which might have been planned to appear as little large or august in its proportions as possible. The painting of the iron-work of pillars, ribs, arches in the roof, &c., is complete. For colour, a chil grey has been chosen, sparingly relieved in the pierced frieze round the building with heraldic colours and gilding. The effect, for the present, is not happy, as compared with the effects produced by Mr. Owen Jones in Hyde Park, and, to my eye, is that of a fog so universally diffused that I doubt whether any colour which the objects exhibited can introduce will be able to neutralize a sombreness of tint, at once so heavy without grandeur and so feeble without delicacy."

Spain in these later days has made but few contributions to the literary talk of Europe. This time, however, that fine old country of the romancers offers us nothing less than a coronation; and, moreover, the coronation of a poet:—since foreign journals tell us of a high ceremony in Madrid, on the 26th of last March, at which Señor Quintana, now an aged man, was crowned in the Senate House, at Madrid, with a gold crown, by the Queen of Spain herself; the investiture being accompanied with every mark of ceremony and honour.

A large gathering of notables took place on Saturday last at the Society of Arts, for a private view of the seventh annual exhibition of inventions. Not a little of the machinery is devoted to warlike purposes; and among the fire-arms exhibited the chief interest attached to those which had been captured from the Russians in the Crimea. Altogether, the display is attractive.

A Correspondent says:—

" I am much pleased to see by the notice in your Gossip of Saturday last, that the New Library and Reading-Room for the British Museum are now beginning to attract attention. Not only will the cupola be, as you say, larger than that of St. Peter's at Rome, but, with the exception of the Pantheon at Rome (which, however, is only two feet broader) it will be the largest in the world. Your suggestion that this noble space should be covered with historical or allegorical paintings is the first that has been made public; but the subject had not escaped the notice of the home authorities. The attention of the Trustees has, I believe, been twice drawn to the desirableness of rendering the new reading-room worthy of the nation to which it belongs by placing within it statues of remarkable persons, and covering the vault of the cupola with a series of mural paintings. But the Trustees, although at all times most anxious to extend the usefulness of the institution, have been deterred from submitting the proposition to the Lords of the Treasury by that stumbling-block in the way of all schemes for the public good which present themselves with other than a pounds, shillings, and pence recommendation—the expense. This ought not to be, but so it is. The Trustees feel that their appeal to the guardians of the public purse would not be listened to favourably, and therefore have not ventured to make it. The suggestion you have put forth is, consequently, most valuable and opportune. That which a body of gentlemen representing the highest rank and intelligence in the country feel they could not hope to obtain, the public may through its legitimate organ, the press, demand. It would be an insult to the English people to doubt for a moment the general verdict in favour of such an appropriation of the interior of the cupola, and I think I risk little in asserting that were England to adopt the whitewash, or any other similar mode of decoration, she would exhibit a defiance of good taste not to be paralleled in any other country of Europe."

Mr. Austin, agent in England for the King of Oude, asks permission to put on record a literary protest:—

" As the manager of the principal literary organ in London, I appeal to you with reference to an announcement which appears in the columns of the *Englishman* newspaper in Calcutta, relative to a work stated to be now in the press in London:—It is stated that an account of the private life of Nussin-u-deen, formerly King of Oude, is preparing for publication in London. Now that there is so much talk of 'annexation' in reference to Oude, this report is significant. We have it on the best authority that the work in question gives a full account of the mismanagement of the country and the miserable condition of its inhabitants. If it be intended to institute any comparison between Nussin-u-deen and the present King of Oude, I trust you will never lend the sanction of your columns to a calumny which would be equally false and unfounded. I am, &c., GEO. AUSTIN."

The bill before parliament for extending the benefits of the English Free Libraries Legisla-

tion to Ireland repeals the 16 & 17 Vict. c. 101, and the 99th section of the 17 & 18 Vict. c. 103, and provides for the adoption of the act in any incorporated borough, or any town the population of which shall exceed 5,000 persons, the adoption to be determined by the votes of two-thirds of the householders. The expenses of carrying the act into execution are to be defrayed out of the borough or town fund. Accounts are to be audited, and a copy is to be sent to the Lord Lieutenant. The amount of the rate to be levied for the purposes of the act is not to exceed 1d. in the pound in any one year. The councils or boards of any borough and the town commissioners of any town are empowered to appropriate lands, and to sell and exchange the same for the purposes of this act. The general management of the libraries and museums is to be vested in the borough councils and town commissioners, who are "to purchase and provide the necessary fuel, lighting and other similar matters,—books, newspapers, maps, and specimens of art and science," &c. The property of the library and all lands and buildings will be vested in the managers. A decision against the adoption of this act will be valid for one year. Museums and libraries established under this act will be open to the public free of all charge.

The PORTLAND GALLERY, 316, Regent Street (opposite the Royal Polytechnic Institution). The EIGHTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of the NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS is NOW OPEN from Nine till dusk. Admission One Shilling; Catalogue Sixpence. BELL SMITH, Secretary.

ADAM and EVE.—This great Original Work, by JOSEPH VAN LERIUS, is NOW ON VIEW at 57, PALL MALL (opposite Marlborough House), from 11 to 6 daily.—Admission, 1s.

SIEGE of SEVASTOPOL.—GREAT GLOBE.—All the New Approaches and Siege Works are placed on the MODEL of SEVASTOPOL in the Imperial, Balaklava, and the Tcherepovets, of the GREAT GLOBE, Leadenhall Square, admission to the whole building, 1s.; Children and School, Half-pence. Open from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. A Collection of Trophies taken from the Russians.

ZOOLOGICAL CONCERT.—LOVES ENTERTAINMENTS.—VENTRILLOQUISM EXTRAORDINARY.—REGENT GALLERY, 60, Quadrant.—Every Evening except Saturday; Saturday, at 8—Monday and Tuesday, Mr. LEE, universally known as the most Domestic and Popular Entertainer in England, presents his NEW ENTERTAINMENT called "THE LONDON SEASON." Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the entertainments, LOVE IN ALL SHAPES and LOVES LABOUR'S LOST. Saturday, at 3, LOVE IN ALL SHAPES, and other entertainments. LOVE IN ALL SHAPES and LOVES LABOUR'S LOST. TUESDAY, at 8, THE ZOOLOGICAL CONCERT.—DRAFFORD, Miss Julia Warman—Stalls, 2s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s.—Tickets at Mitchell's, 33, Old Bond Street; Turner's Music Depot, 19, Poultry; and at the Rooms, between 12 and 3.

## SCIENTIFIC

### SOCIETIES

ROYAL.—March 29.—T. Bell, Esq., V.P., in the chair. The following papers were read.—'On the Existence of an Element of Strength in Beams subjected to Transverse Strain,' by P. W. Barlow, Esq.—'On the Optical Effects of Eyelashes, Eyelids, &c.,' by I. Jago, Esq.—'On Metallic and some other Oxides in relation to Catalytic Phenomena,' by E. Ashby, Esq.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—March 28.—T. J. Pettigrew, Esq., V.P., in the chair. Mr. Halliwell presented to the Association five tradesmen's tokens.—Mr. Wakeman contributed a paper 'On the Antiquities of Trelech.'—Mr. Pettigrew read a paper relating to the several Leper Hospitals, Houses and Chapels in the several Counties of England, in continuation of a previous communication on those establishments.—The Council list of Officers, Council and Auditors proposed to the General Meeting to be held on the 11th of April, was submitted to the Association.

METEOROLOGICAL.—March 27.—Dr. R. D. Thomson, F.R.S., in the chair.—Capt. FitzRoy, R.N., and G. H. Fielding, Esq. were duly elected.—'On the recent Cold Weather, and on the Crystals of Snow observed during its Continuance,' by Mr. James Glaisher.—The present year was ushered in with a high temperature, exceeding its average by quantities varying from 8° to 12° daily. On January 10th a cold period set in, together with a dense fog; and the temperature, which was as high as 49° 6 on the 9th, fell to 26° on the 10th. This diminution of temperature was accompanied by a change in the wind, which, from blowing a compound from the west, changed to a compound from the east; and,

with few exceptions, has so continued up to the present time, as shown by the returns published in the *Daily News*. On January 12th and 13th the temperature was about its average value; but after the 14th, when the cold set in, its departures were very considerable, particularly over the south-west and eastern parts of England. Scotland and the northern counties were frequently exempt from any share in the great severity of the period, which was also less severely felt at the sea-side than at inland places. The lowest temperature, viz.  $0^{\circ} 8$ , took place at Berkhamstead. At different places in England, on different days, it was as low as  $3^{\circ}$ ,  $5^{\circ}$ ,  $7^{\circ}$ , and  $10^{\circ}$ . For a similar period to the one which has just passed, it is necessary to go back to the year 1814. That year, however, commenced with a very low temperature,—a frost having set in on December 26th, 1813. The intensity of the two periods was about the same. It ended, in 1814, on March 21st; whereas, with the exception of a short intermission about the first week in March, the temperature of the present period has descended lower and more frequently than it did in 1814, in which year the coldest day was on January 10th, when the reading was  $19^{\circ} 6$ . The lowest temperature of this year also occurred in January, and was  $19^{\circ} 2$ . In 1814 the lowest temperature in February was on the 4th, and was  $22^{\circ}$ . The lowest reading in this month of the present year was  $20^{\circ} 6$ , and took place on the 18th; and this February was a much more severe month than the February of 1814. The mean temperature of February, 1814, was  $32^{\circ} 4$ ; and that of the present year was  $29^{\circ} 3$ . The remarkable feature of the late severe weather has been the peculiar character and continuous fall of snow; which first made its appearance on January 16th, and laid on the ground from that date till the end of February. The average amount did not at any one time exceed a foot in depth; and its density has been of from 8 to 10 inches of fresh fallen to 1 inch of water, which its melting has produced. The drifts have varied from 5 feet to 10 feet. The snow this year has been of that kind which former writers have designated "Polar snow"—it having been chiefly composed of crystallized particles of compound figure, which they supposed to be confined, with rare exceptions, to the Arctic regions. This supposition, however, is not supported by the great prevalence this year of innumerable crystals, which have exhibited a degree of crystalline formation equal to any that have been recorded as seen in colder latitudes. They have been very generally distributed, and, whilst prevalent, attracted a considerable share of public attention. The primary figure or base of each crystal was either a star of six radii or a plane hexagon. The compound varieties included combinations of spicule, prisms, and laminae, clustered upon and around the radii, and seem, in their various stages of formation, and almost endless variety, to defy any attempt to classify or arrange them into groups. At the commencement of the frost simple stellar forms were very prevalent, and fell in clusters of from 10 to 20 in a group, with a temperature at or about the freezing point. They were observed to fall both during a profound calm, with gusts and hard wind, and frequently unaccompanied with snow. On examination through a Coddington lens, they were found to be composed of transparent spicule, from which diverged other spicule set upon the main radii of the figure at an angle of  $60^{\circ}$ . A great number of plane hexagons fell on the morning of February the 8th. Some of these were of transparent laminae, beautifully marked with successive and inner tracings. As the morning advanced, they became intermixed with others, set round with solid hexagons, which continued to fall until an hour before noon. For half an hour after several large crystals, of compound figure, fell with the snow. Their centre or nucleus was similar to the compound hexagons of the morning, from which diverged radii later on either side with prisms, each set on at an angle of  $60^{\circ}$ . From this time till 4 o'clock few crystals were observed to fall; but after 4 o'clock, innumerable crystals, of arborescent form, were discernible. The nucleus of the greater number was a plane hexagon marked

with inner parallel tracings, from which sprung radii, each of which intersected a crystalline formation very similar in appearance to the pinnae of the Lady Fern. As the evening advanced, these became less prevalent, and were mingled with almost every variety which had previously fallen during the day. Snow continued to fall till late at night, when it lay upon the ground to the depth of 8 inches. The day will long be remembered as one of the most keen and inclement of the wintry period under discussion. The minimum of the preceding night had been  $29^{\circ} 8$ ; and throughout the day, the temperature never rose higher than  $32^{\circ}$ . Snow fell, without intermission, from early morning till late at night. It was accompanied by a piercing wind; and in the afternoon, when the arborescent form again set in, it was blowing quite a storm. Traffic on the railways was for a time suspended, and the day was one of bitter and intense cold. When, says Mr. Glaisher, I went out, at long past midnight, the snow sparkled everywhere with crystals, as granite sparkles with the grains of mica; every leaf, cobweb, knotty projection and sheltered nook bore its burden of drifted snow and glistening crystals. It was a night to be remembered, for the extreme loneliness of Nature arrayed in her most wintry garb. A large number of crystals fell on the mornings of February 13th, 16th, and 17th. Some, and the greater number of them, were arborescent, in different stages of formation, with three large alternating, with three small pinnae, studded with prisms and spicule, extending on either side of the principal radii. Some exhibited an appearance, towards the end of each pinna, like a tuft of bended leaves, with serrated edges, beautifully white and seemingly opaque. Mr. Glaisher accounts for this appearance by the passage of the crystal in its descent through different regions of the atmosphere, in some one of which it has become partially thawed, and again frozen, in which condition it has been received on the surface of the earth. This conjecture is the more probable as the jagged and serrated appearance is often attendant upon the first thawing of these bodies on entering a temperature above the freezing point. The opaque and white appearance is communicated by a subsequent formation of granulated particles of snow, in all probability attaching to it, whilst in a transition state, in its descent to the earth. This is, however, only a surmise in the absence of any better solution of the fact. On February the 21st, with a temperature of  $20^{\circ}$ , there fell for an hour, unaccompanied by snow, a great variety of intensely beautiful and complicated figures. The radii were encrusted with solids, both of rhomboidal and irregular shape, cut into many facets, and heaped one upon the other. On this morning there were numerous double crystals, that is, two crystals united by an axis, at right angles to the plane of each. They generally fell with their radii intermediate, and the radii of the upper somewhat projected beyond the radii of the under crystal. Two days after, that is, on February 23rd, the frost gave way; but for some few hours in the morning Mr. Glaisher was able to continue his observations. The morning was overcast and calm, and snow fell in flakes, accompanied by minute spicule. Soon after 9 o'clock a change took place, and, mingled with the heavy flakes, there fell a large number of thick snowy crystals. On examining these with a Coddington lens, they were found to consist of an assemblage of prisms, grouped in thick arrangement, and bristling up (if the phrase may be allowed), at all angles, from some invisible nucleus. Some of the prisms were longer than others, but most of them were notched here and there, giving indications of the formation of other prisms or spicule. The longer prisms were midway in character between the prisms of high crystalline formation and the ordinary spicule. After the lapse of half-an-hour, the common flakes were fewer in number, and were accompanied with innumerable spicule. These did not fall separately, but in groups of several, clinging to each other at all angles. They had a fleecy appearance to the naked eye, but under the glass were long and rounded prisms, partaking much of the character of an icicle; but all notched and tapering to a point. At this time the air was soft and mild, and the snow was falling thickly. At 10h. 30min. the air was still calm, and the snow continued. At this time it was easy to detect here and there pinnules in an intermediate stage of formation. The spicule, which were still falling, were now of greater length, and their figure more perfectly developed. At 11h. crystals were falling, of great beauty and transparency, but of simple figure. They were thin and transparent in the highest degree, and bore a leafy appearance: Very many of them were double. Whilst observing them they changed their figure in the most curious and kaleidoscopic manner possible, the upper groups of prisms collapsing first, the next in order next, and so on,—the collapsing each time dissolving three or more prisms into one, a change effected with instantaneous rapidity. This was the first step preparatory to their dissolving; the next step was the rounding of every angle that remained; and the next step to that the extension and thickening of spicule, which had served as axes to prisms, and which now derived accession from their half-fluid and dissolving matter. In this manner they continued to exchange one simple form for another yet more simple, until the pristine drop of water occupied the site of the former crystal. At 11h. 15min. snow was falling quickly in minute crystals as described. The air was genial and mild, the clouds lightened as preparatory to sunshine, and the birds for awhile sang joyously. All nature seemed to rejoice in the mitigation of the weather. At 12h. the snow had all but ceased, and the temperature was  $37^{\circ}$ . The cocks crowed as anticipating a change; the birds answered each other from the trees; icicles, two feet in length, which had been noticed for sixteen days previously, began fast to melt away. All nature, but the birds, was still; and, what is rarely seen, the trees were dripping moisture while the snow lay like a rime upon their branches and bended stems. At 1h. 13 min. the temperature was  $35^{\circ} 5$ , and small and fine snow was again falling; water was dripping everywhere, the birds were singing joyously, and the calm continued. After a short intermission, the cold set in again, but with much abated rigour; and on the mornings of March 8, 9, and 10, with temperature a few degrees above the freezing-point, Mr. Glaisher observed a number of stellar crystals, made up almost entirely of spicule and half-dissolving prisms. They were between  $0^{\circ} 3$  in. and  $0^{\circ} 4$  in. in diameter; they fell sparingly, without snow, sometimes singly, but more often in groups of three or four together. The collapsing, which would seem to be a method of change peculiar to a temperature below freezing, was not witnessed on this day; but the process of dissolving at a temperature above  $32^{\circ}$  was seen to great perfection. The outer and boundary line of each figure, and its component parts, became exchanged for curved lines, bending inwards, whilst the crystalline matter, every instant becoming more watery, ran out at the angles of the prisms in the form of spicule. The prisms of the crystals, thus in a transition state to their original fluid medium, presented each an exact similitude to a holly leaf, and as being made up of curved lines a very anomalous appearance. This change was not always simultaneous, sometimes commencing at either or both ends of the radii. There is room for much examination and study respecting the manner of the dissolving of these bodies, which under some circumstances would doubtless show a reversal of the conditions under which they were originally formed and attained their compound figure.

The author next proceeded to give a brief summary of each day's observations. On Feb. 8 they commenced with a temperature of  $29^{\circ}$ , which subsequently increased to  $32^{\circ}$ , at which the temperature continued for many hours. During the whole of this time, conspicuous for its uniform temperature, the prevailing figure of the crystals continued to change, until towards the close of the day they fell mingled together in the greatest profusion. In the early part of the morning, it will be remembered that they were arborescent; that these forms suddenly ceased, and were exchanged for hexagons; that these again became the centre of a more complicated arrangement;

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that after a time these diminished in numbers, when the arborescent form again prevailed, and finally a mingling of nearly all that had previously fallen. On Feb. 16, with a temperature of 26°, there were two distinct orders of crystals, those which were arborescent and exhibited an intermediate formation, and those of cruciform character, of solid hexagons cut into numerous facets. Feb. 17, with a temperature of 32° throughout, exhibited figures, it will be remembered, composed of elongated prisms, ranged parallel to each other, and of very similar character. There were, however, exceptional instances of the prevailing character of Feb. 16. On Feb. 21, with the lowest temperature, viz. 20°, the figures were singularly compound, and departed more than on any previous day from the figure of the regular hexagon. On Feb. 23, the last day of the frost, there were a large number of arborescent crystals of one common character, and which never ceased collapsing into more and more simple figures. On March 8, after a week's respite, the cold set in again. The crystals on this and the next two consecutive days, were of a very distinctive class, of purely stellar figure, and composed chiefly of fine spicule. From these observations it would seem, that however temperature may affect these bodies, it is more than likely that other conditions of a different nature are involved in their first formation. This, apparently, was the view taken by a writer on the subject in the *Phil. Trans.* for 1672. Speaking of snow crystals (says the Rev. G. Langwith), "It is not easy to determine whether these figures may not be the result of the chemical components of the atmosphere, which as they preponderate may not under certain conditions of temperature give rise to these curiously simple and compounded bodies. Dr. Smallwood, of Isle Jesus, Canada East, imagines them to be intimately connected with the electrical state of the atmosphere, whether negative or positive. The foregoing observations show a wide difference between the various orders of crystalline formation, and it would seem from them that the greater the degree of cold the greater the departure from the simple star, with all its variously arranged spicule; also that shortly after the descent of a crystal, at any temperature below the freezing point, various processes of change take place, which are evidently an undoing, if not a reversal, of the operations which had assisted in their formation. These changes, through which every crystal never fails to pass, even at temperatures very many degrees below the freezing point, each more destructive than the last of its crystalline and compound figure, led the author to the same conclusions. The subject of snow crystals has engaged the attention of Aristotle, Descartes, Grew, Kepler, Dr. Nettles, Dr. Scoresby, and others, but like most subjects of meteorological inquiry, it has languished for want of extended and continuous observation. The published information concerning them is, however, likely soon to derive accession from Sir Edward Belcher's observations made in the Arctic Seas. Coming from this experienced and able officer, they will be of substantial benefit to the inquiry into the nature and circumstances of formation of these interesting bodies.

**INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.**—*March 27.*  
—J. Simpson, Esq., President, in the chair.—The discussion on Mr. R. A. Robinson's paper, 'On the Application of the Screw Propeller to the larger class of Sailing Ships, for long voyages,' was continued.

*April 3.*—G. P. Bidder, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—The discussion on Mr. R. A. Robinson's paper was again renewed, and continued through the evening.—After the Meeting there was exhibited in the library a model of a system introduced by Mr. Clifford, for lowering ships' boats from the davits, evenly, quietly, and safely, in a gale of wind, and disengaging them without any risk of capsizing, or being dragged under by the speed of the vessel.

**ROYAL INSTITUTION.**—*General Monthly Meeting.*  
—*April 2.*—A. A. Goldsmid, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—E. Anderson, Esq., A. W. Barclay, Esq., M.D., and T. P. Woodcock, Esq., were elected Members.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- TUES. Syro-Egyptian, 7½.—'On the Assyrian Deity, Nisroch,' by Mr. Bonomi.—'On the Cuthite Idol, Nergal,' by Dr. Benisch.  
—Zoological, 9.—Scientific.  
WED. British Archaeological, 4.—Annual General Meeting.  
—Society of Arts, 8.—'The Mineral Industries of the United Kingdom,' by Mr. Hunt.  
—Ethnological, 8½.—'On the Ethnology of the Macedonian Conquests,' by Mr. Anstey.  
—Graphic, 8.  
—Philological, 8.  
—Astronomical, 8.

#### FINE ARTS

##### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

*St. John and the Lamb.* Painted by Murillo; Engraved by F. Bacon. Boys. This is a good, careful engraving of one of Murillo's well-known pictures. There is unusual sweetness in the smile of the child-saint, who caresses the typical lamb with a tenderness admirably expressed. There is a religious feeling over the whole not merely Catholic, but Spanish; and the scene has that strong, naturalistic, material character for which the artists of the Peninsula are remarkable. It is singular that Holland and Spain should be the most materialistic of the schools. The one nation commercial, money-loving, neat, accurate, peddling, and restricted; and the other, chivalrous, superstitious, bigotted, and all but ignorant of trade: the one the most reforming, the other the most conservative of religionists: the one the freest, the other the most enslaved of nations. What common principle can have produced the same results in two such different nations? A voluptuous climate could scarcely make the Spaniard a materialist, for it made a poet of the Greek.

*Ginevra, The Baron's Return, and The Court Side-board.* Photographed by Lake Price. Graves. THESE admirable photographs we have already had occasion to praise. More attention to his models would have enabled Mr. Price to have produced three very complete and original pictures, well grouped, and pleasing in the arrangement of light and shade. About every boss and curve of the carving and every glint and flash of the armour there is, we need scarcely say, a truthfulness little short of enchantment—a truth that no mere labour can achieve, and only artistic genius can surpass.

*A Water Party.* Painted by J. J. Chalon. Engraved by J. T. Willmore, A.R.A., from the Original Picture in the Possession of A. E. Chalon, Esq. Art-Union of London.

EXCEPT from respect for the artist and as a remembrance of his labours, we really see no reason why such a painting as this should have been honoured with "a short eternity" (as an Irishman would say) on steel. The picture is an indistinct dream of Claude and Turner, laid in the land of Nowhere. About the landscape, with the exception of the clouds, which are false as they can be, there is a poetry both of air and water; but the figures are poor and ill drawn, lifeless and unreal. They are neither Charles-the-Second courtiers, Italian masquers, classical revellers, nor anything but red and blue spots to carry out colour and fill up the foreground. There is a want, throughout the whole, of masculine strength.

*Honour thy Father and Mother.* Painted by H. Barraud; Engraved by W. T. Davey. Boys. THIS picture is a representation of drawing-room religion. It reminds us not of primitive Christianity, but of pages carrying gilt prayer-books behind rustling peeresses,—of fashionable chapels which the poor never enter but to sweep them out, —of fashionable preachers delivering the benediction with hands "as white as is the whale's bone." The work is wholly devoid of sincerity;—the faces are ill drawn, and have neither poetry nor expression. Mr. Barraud's Christians never kneel but on embroidered cushions,—never soil their velvets by coming into contact with dying men's beds,—refuse to visit the sick, because they do not aspire their h's when they pray. This artist's rooms are always scented,—his children wear purple and fine linen, —and all his respectable people are people who have brick vaults of their own, and never moulder away into common churchyard earth. The re-

ligious feeling he appeals to is the placid self-satisfied religion that binds up its Ledger and Bible in the same volume, and believes in little parades set apart for the "ten thousand pounders."

**FINE-ART GOSSIP.**—The annual exhibition of works of eminent English painters at the rooms of the Society of Arts is fixed. The Messrs. Chalon follow Etty and Mr. Mulready. Mr. Alfred Chalon is preparing the works of his late brother, Mr. John Chalon, and a selection from his own studio.

The members and supporters of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution dined at the Freemasons' Tavern on Saturday last. The chair was taken by the Lord Mayor, supported by Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Muggeridge and Mr. Sheriff Crosley, and a goodly gathering of Art celebrities. A subscription of 611/- was announced.

Our public places begin to tell of preparation for the great artistic contest in Paris. During the last few days workmen have been engaged in removing the stained glass from nine of the lower compartments of the large window at the bottom of Westminster Hall, for the purpose of being transmitted to Paris as a specimen of Birmingham art in the manufacture of stained glass, at the forthcoming Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations.

The Taylor Museum, in Oxford, is growing rich in Art collections of many kinds. Its series of Michael Angelo's drawings is superb; and Mr. Chambers Hall has presented a magnificent collection, including a large cartoon by Razzie, of Siens, framed; a pen drawing of the Nativity (engraved in Ottley's "School of Design"); another by Raphael, of the Circumcision, and a superb study of a figure in his picture, called 'La Belle Jardinière'; about 50 drawings by Rembrandt; 43 by Ostade; 30 by Claude Lorraine; and specimens by Leonardo da Vinci, Correggio, Albert Dürer, Rubens, Vandyck the elder and younger, Van der Velde, Paul Potter, Teniers, Wilson, and Zoffany. We may mention, also, a collection of about 200 etchings by Rembrandt, 60 by Ostade, 50 by Claude, and 24 by Vandyck, proofs and early states. The etchings of four of the greatest artists in that way are of the most select quality, and in point of variety and beauty equal to any in the first cabinets in Europe. A portfolio of original sketches in water-colours, made in the East and various parts of the Continent, by Mr. Hall and his brother, and a series of useful etchings, by his friend the late Mr. Read, of Salisbury. A small collection of paintings, among which will be found landscapes by Rubens, Guardi, Wilson, Linnell, Read, and Constable; sketches and heads by Vandyck: 'The Enraged Musician,' 'The Inn Yard,' 'The Portrait of Sir James Thornhill,' and a conversation piece, by Hogarth; Portraits of Admiral Keppel and Miss Keppel, and a most interesting sketch of 'The Charity,' for the window at New College, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Upwards of 70 specimens of early Greek and Etruscan sculpture, in bronze and other metals, such as statuettes and portions of larger figures, vase-handles, ornaments, and implements, many of them of singular beauty and interest. A few Greek terra-cottas, paintings, and some gems. In addition to these classical objects, may be mentioned a small model in wax by Michael Angelo, for the recumbent figure of Aurora, on the tomb of Lorenzo de' Medici, Duke of Urbino, at Florence.

A statue is about to be erected at Montrose to the memory of the late Joseph Hume. It will be an odd turn of the wheel if a vast sum of money shall be expended on a memorial to the most severe economist of our economical nation.

Our Florence Correspondent writes:—"The remarks of Signor Bezzi in the *Athenæum* of the 17th ult. on a notice from a Correspondent in No. 1426, respecting the statues under the portico of the Uffizi at Florence, show errors. In the *Athenæum* of May 26, 1849, page 550, may be found a letter from me, giving some account of these statues, which had then recently been erected. Seven statues have been added to the collection since the above date. They are those of Leon Battista Alberti, the architect and poet,—Galileo,—Paolo Mascagni,

the anatomist,—Andrea Cesalpino, of Arezzo, born in 1519, for many years Professor of Medicine at Pisa, and one of those Italians to whom Harvey was probably more indebted for the hints which led him to his great discovery than he cared to acknowledge,—Accorso, a Florentine lawyer of the twelfth century, celebrated among canonists by the title of 'Il Chiosatore,' the glossarist,—St. Antonino, a Dominican, and Archbishop of Florence in the fifteenth century,—and, lastly, the jovial Medico Redi, the well-known author of the *Bacco in Toscana*. The statues, though not falling below decent mediocrity, are not of striking merit, nor equal to some of the best of those described in my former letter. Redi, who has ventured into this grave and solemn assembly of figures in togas, tunics, armour, and flowing draperies, in coat, waistcoat, breeches, and wig, the sole representative of modern habiliments and notions, is yet far from being the least characteristic and striking statue of the gallery. The Dominican who has been selected to represent the Church in this permanent congress of the representative men of Florence, seems as he stands in his niche, with bent body and shaven crown, among the representations of all the lay occupations which illustrate humanity, a singular evidence of the success with which Romish discipline has striven to impress on her favourites a distinctive and peculiar type, wholly unlike that of any other, either saints or sinners, in the world. The artist has perfectly succeeded in reproducing the well-known look, so familiar to those acquainted with the portraits of Latin hagiography, which is conventionally understood in these lands to be the expression of sanctity. It is a look in which the crouching attitude and the lines of the mouth say, 'Smite me, if you will!' while there is easily to be read in the downcast eye a warning, which adds, 'But my bite in your heel shall pour poison through your veins, if you but thwart me!'

#### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY. Exeter Hall.—Conductor, Mr. COSTA.—On FRIDAY NEXT, April 13, Mendelssohn's 'ELIJAH.' Vocalists: Madame Clara Novello, Miss Dolby, Mrs. Leckey, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Herr Formes. The Orchestra, as usual, will consist of nearly 70 Performers.—Tickets, 3s. 5d. and 10s. 6d. each, may be at once secured by immediate application at the Society's sole Office, No. 6 Room, within Exeter Hall.

#### THE THEATRES.

THE popular direction now taking by the highest drama merits further consideration. Its descent in social rank is, to the mind that thoroughly investigates the fact, of much significance. The popular drama preceding Shakespeare was low, tentative, inartificial, yet amusing. *Mysteries* and *morallities* then answered the purpose of our modern melo-dramas and *vaudevilles*. The former, like the latter, lay level with the intellect of the audience. Had the aim of our earliest dramatic poets been simply to please the existing public taste, they had only to continue the supply of such pieces. But they took a nobler course, they lavished the finest poetry on the unprepared minds of the vulgar, and exercised their genius in the creation of a responsive taste in a rude auditory. They produced at once a new style of entertainment and a new standard of appreciation. In this they were assisted by scholars, and patronized by the aristocracy. There are critics, however, of Shakespeare who affect to think that the poet had no purpose but to amuse his audience, and that the wit and wisdom, the poetry and morality which we find in his various plays, got into them by mere accident, and indeed would not have been found in them at all had he suspected the ultimate unpopularity of such heavy metal. They were due, in the opinion of such flippant judges, to his want of art,—a quality which it was left to the French playwright of the nineteenth century to develop. Little they knew of the poet, who thus esteem his productions. Our early dramatists were conscious of their mission, showed their consciousness in their complimentary verses to each other, and exhausted in discharge of what they felt to be a noble duty the benevolence of a feudal nature. All was of purpose and aforesighted;

and they gave to the English language a literature which is a marvel among nations.

We have since had poets who have worked with similar desires; some whose power has not been equal to their will, and a few whose power has been far greater than their opportunity. But the efforts of the best, as of the worst, were for a long time defeated by the operation of bad laws, infamous monopolies, and the vested interests of actors in old parts. The correction of the laws in question was fortunately productive of an immediate result. It at once found or made an audience for the poetic drama. But it was not among the classes by whom the early poet had been supported. Those classes had become careless of learning, and were impatient of all kinds of entertainment but that which possessed the least pretension to meaning, and preferred theatrical pieces which in purpose and structure were immeasurably below even the obsolete *Mystery* and *Morality*, as if the art and its patrons had returned to a second and a weaker infancy. Exposure sufficed to shake their authority, and to make the more clear-sighted of theatrical conductors substitute a heavier sort of ordnance for the pop-gun artillery with which they had managed to carry on a sham war, in an age of shama. Where this was not attempted, the bubble altogether bursts;—and thus the LYCEUM is compelled to confess to ruin, while the PRINCESS's, notwithstanding its heavy losses, manages to retrieve a portion of its reputation by the performance of an historical tragedy,—not only new, but striking from its singularity, though not original. Meanwhile, in the suburban districts, signs of positive growth have accumulated. Not only are new dramas of the highest mark established, but original productions of poetic promise are introduced to the boards. There is, also, a principle of development in continual operation;—and transplantations of talent and pieces take place from one theatre to another, and both thrive the better for the change of situation. The metropolitan Orient is dappled with the prophetic hues of Aurora, and is abundant in signs of a bright approaching morning.

In these statements we desire to be practical. Large remuneration to authors of original pieces should not be expected from a low-priced theatre. We have lately indicated that 400*l.* is the hypothetical value of a five-act play. Now, it would be absurd to expect this from a sixpenny or shilling pit. But apart from this consideration, there is something exceptional in the supposed sum in itself. The price paid by managers in general to the recognized playwright on the staff of his theatre is regulated by the number of acts; 50*l.* an act to the well-established writer, and 25*l.*, or even less, to the comparatively untried. We see not why this rule should not be applied to five-act pieces. 25*l.* for a tragedy, with the chances of production rendered frequent, would be, we should think; not a despicable sum; and half that for a first attempt, or at a lower-class theatre, might in many cases, we can easily imagine, be very acceptable. Other arrangements, according to circumstances, might be made, not offensive to the most esteemed poets of the present day. We mention this, because we have reason to believe that if the bugbear of excessive pecuniary valuation for this class of production were removed from the managerial mind, there are now more than one theatre where the Poet, if he have the wish, and will but observe the conditions of dramatic structure, may obtain a satisfactory hearing. In Shakespeare's day, high prices were not common. We read in Alleyn's Diary of thirty shillings being given for the addition of a scene—and so forth; and in the popular development of the drama which we are recording, we must expect things to be reduced to their first elements. The fact, indeed, is so. The late John Wilkins received a weekly salary from the City of London Theatre for the regular supply of the pieces they wanted, and from small beginnings became able to write such five-act plays as 'Civilization' and 'The Egyptian.' Etty demanded but trifling prices for his early paintings; but they obtained circulation by reason of his humility, and ultimately a large money value. Let the modern dramatist benefit

by the example; and though his first patrons be poor, they may help him to rich ones hereafter.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC Gossip.—If "Passion Week" meant a week during which English persons have a passion for concert-going, such desire could not have been more amply responded to than has been the case during the past six days. *Promenade Concerts* at Drury Lane, during which the unfortunate 'L'Étoile' has been served up *à la* Jullien,—Mr. Allcroft's annual benefit at the LYCEUM,—Mr. Mellon's *Orchestral Concerts* at St. Martin's Hall,—Mr. W. S. Bennett's Second Soirée, form only the secular part of the week's provision. There have been, in addition, many Oratorios. In short, Drama has been devoutly mortified as usual, while Music has been more rampant in her penitential entertainments than ever. How can we wonder if our foreign neighbours,—who cannot be expected to know "the what and the why" of severities balanced by compliances at the opposite extremity of the scale of allowance,—accuse us, as roundly as they do, of dishonesty and hypocrisy?

The performance of Mr. Leslie's *Oratorio*, which was to have taken place on Thursday week, is postponed till the end of May.

Schubert's *Pianoforte Trio* in B flat, his Op. 29, which was performed by Herren Molique and Pauer and Signor Piatti, at Mr. Ella's last *Musical Evening*, gives us reason to return to that entertainment: since the *Trio*, we believe, had not before been performed at a concert in London. Though, perhaps, in some points (the slow movement especially) the composition may be described as too delicate for public use, it has still too much beauty and fancy,—too much unborrowed, unstudied novelty, to be entirely neglected for the future. In particular the first and last movements pleased. The *finale*, which looks—and which is—slight, has withal so much quaintness, elegance, and originality as to be acceptable even to a public so steeped—we may say, so stiffened—in classical predilections for a few writers as Mr. Ella's. But Herr Molique is hardly freakish and sentimental enough to do justice to such music, consummate master of his instrument though he is. In the hands of Herr Ernst this interesting *Trio* would have proved far more interesting.

A fair Correspondent reminds us that the piece recently produced at the Lyceum under the name of 'A Cozy Couple' [Athen. No. 1430], has but little, if any, claim to originality. The plot is taken from a play by M. Octave Feuillet, entitled 'Le Village: Scènes Provinciales.' "To change the names of *Dupuis* and *Rouville* into those of *Dormouse* and *Russelton*, and omit some allusions to Continental customs," says our Correspondent, "does not require much skill. It is so seldom that the *Athenæum* allows such thefts to escape notice, that it may perhaps find room for this assertion of the principle."—We had already discovered the original of the 'Cozy Couple,' but the sudden closing of the theatre, and the implied rejection of these foreign wares by the public, led us to neglect further reference to the subject. Perhaps, as our lady Correspondent suggests, it is better to put the true fact on record "for the sake of the principle."

Two Easter pieces are announced. At the Haymarket, an extravaganza by Mr. Planché, entitled 'The New Haymarket Spring Meeting (1855)'; and at the Princess's, a new romance in two acts, called 'The Muleteer of Toledo.'

A new entertainment was inaugurated on Monday at St. Martin's Hall, in which the well-known dramatic and vocal talents of Mrs. T. German Reed (late Miss P. Horton), assisted by her husband, were engaged in the representation of a number of new characters, appropriately costumed, under the title of 'Illustrative Gatherings.' The first part of the entertainment has an appropriate sub-title, which is suggestive, and the idea of which is carried out in the naming of the characters. 'The Animated Bouquet—Flowers gathered from Real Life,' is the appellation in question; and the characters introduced accordingly bear the name of some flower or other. Thus, we have Mrs. Myrtle, of Holly Lodge; Miss Snowberry,

a scandal-loving philanthropist, which was capitally acted; Mr. Southernwood, a veteran who discourses of the war; Rose Lily, with Dame Crocus and Dame Daffodil—the two latter characters played at the same time, each side of the person being differently appalled and mask-painted, that as the actress turned the part was humorously changed; Sir Jonquil, Miss Fuschia Willow, Miss Larkspur, and Master Nettle Myrtle—the last rather a good intention than a success. This portion of the entertainment was, on the whole, eminently satisfactory. The second, entitled 'The Enraged Musician,' awakened associations with Hogarth's picture, which were scarcely realized. Mrs. Quillquacker, a loquacious landlady, was, however, amusing; and Francisco Vergoni, an Italian boy, with his mice and hurdy-gurdy, pathetic. There was also a country servant, Kezia Wilcox, who would put things to rights in the Musician's room; but the part requires more development. As a French *artiste*, however, seeking an engagement in the Musician's new opera, Mrs. Reed recovered her *prestige*, both as an actress and singer; and her execution of 'Robert, toi que j'aime,' was remarkably effective. 'The Illustrative Gatherings,' altogether, are calculated to amuse, and may be pronounced elegant both in their conception and ultimate embodiment. Among the semi-dramatic drawing-room entertainments of the metropolis, they are therefore likely to secure a position.

We note the revival of Cherubini's 'Medea,' at the Frankfort Opera. To this magnificent work—written for the *Opéra Comique* of Paris, and accordingly written with spoken dialogue—Herr Lachner has added recitatives. It is a pity that no adaptation can be made of this opera, such as could bring it within the reach of ordinary singers; the part of the heroine being inaccessible by any one possessing less than Mdlle. Crivelli's voice and physical power. There must, however, be much music from Cherubini's operas available and interesting for concert performances; and we repeat this recommendation, being under the charm of the delicious chorus from 'Blanche en Provence,' which we heard an evening or two since, in Paris, where it is a stock concert-piece, though entirely unknown in London.

'Le Demi-Monde,' the new drama by M. Alex. Dumas the younger, now in representation at the Théâtre *Gymnase*, is, possibly, the most successful play which has been produced during late years in Paris:—every place being taken for every representation for a fortnight to come, and the interest of the crowded audiences who attend being that sort of living, breathless sympathy and attention, which the least experienced of playgoers can at once distinguish from the commanded raptures of a *claque*, or the delight of a few ardent personal friends. Yet what is it that the Parisians throng so eagerly to rejoice in? Another tragi-comedy of corrupt manners;—another picture of the bad world which is suspended, like Mahomet's coffin, betwixt earth and heaven;—another exhibition of Ill Fame struggling—almost strangling itself—to arrive at "social position";—of haggard Disgrace, with excuses, wistfully intriguing and agonizing itself in desperate hope of gaining the sympathy and support of Honour. The dialogue is natural, life-like, modern French talk, (some of the too direct questionings and too explicit confidences of the stage allowed for). The characters are, for women—a wife without a husband; a widow with an outspoke niece, who has grown up in this bad street of Vanity Fair pure in heart but bold in tongue: for men—a retired *roué*; a philosophical one, put forward as a man of sense, honour and feeling, who does sundry Jesuitical things, first to screen, afterwards to abase, the heroine *Madame d'Auge*, in order that he may interpose betwixt her and a marriage with a brave and credulous young soldier. On ourselves the impression made by this play was more disagreeable and melancholy than exciting; and we came home from it feeling as if we had passed an evening in that worst of all company, among which grossness and cruelty of heart and knavery are glossed over with genteel seeming. This 'Demi-

Monde' is wonderfully acted and arranged:—a despair to those who long to get rid of the set tones, and set chairs, and set groups in which English stage-managers delight. Madame Rose-Chéri, as the *Becky* of the drama, is almost a rival to Mdlle. Rachel as *Lady Tartuffe*, in real viciousness and assumed elegance and candour. Mdlle. Figeeac, as the "lioness" of the 'Demi-Monde,'—a creature one degree coarser, gayer, and truer than the heroine,—pleased us even more. One scene,—in which her former husband refuses recognition and reconciliation, and in which, after having shown a touch of heart in her dismay, she breaks into feverish, restless frivolity, by way of getting rid of troublesome thought,—struck us as a scene from that tragedy of every-day life, so full of conscious and unconscious misery, which is daily, hourly acted, wherever people consort. M. Du-puis, too, as *M. Jalin*, the Mentor and the detector, goes through his difficult and little gracious part with the ease, humour and *sang-froid* of a thorough artist.—We dwell here on this play, because it has made a real "sensation";—yet neither as regards literary merit nor story can it claim more respectful notice in a literary English journal. But what a strange passion is that of the public, that throngs to see the abominations of its own under-world dragged out to open day and daguerreotyped!

#### MISCELLANEA

*Richard III.*—I do not think the arguments in Mr. Nichols's last letter justify his conclusion that the Duke of Glo'ster could not have been Protector before his arrival in London. I admit that the dates I have adduced, being only two in number, *may* both of them be clerical errors, and therefore cannot be called quite decisive of the point; but I cannot see that the reasons given for regarding them as erroneous are at all conclusive. And I will take the liberty of suggesting that Mr. Nichols, however thoroughly convinced in his own mind, has scarcely made a perfectly fair use of his materials in changing "2nd of May" into "2nd of June." He would have done better to have given the date as it stood in the original, and added his own observations in a note. This date of the 2nd of May occurs in a MS. volume, the authority of which in historical investigations stands very high. It consists of a large collection of grants, warrants, and other documents proceeding from the Crown during the reigns of Edward the Fifth and Richard the Third, which appear to have been very carefully transcribed. The order of the different entries, however, is very irregular throughout. A number of those belonging to Richard the Third's time are arranged in months, and here and there a more or less regular succession of days may be found, but the bulk of the volume exhibits no very strict chronological arrangement. Even the date which immediately precedes the one in question are not in the true order of time, though Mr. Nichols calls them a "sequence." Within four pages of that date I find the 29th, 25th, and 23rd of May with the order of time inverted, and another 23rd of May following the 29th. Indeed, the strict order of time is not preserved even in the four documents immediately preceding that date which Mr. Nichols challenges on account of its breaking a sequence. In point of fact there is no sequence at all. With regard to the other date, the 21st of April, found among the Commissions of the Peace, the argument against it is, that there are certainly inaccuracies among these documents. Two or three commissions are repeated without a difference, and some with only a difference in date. Well, what does this amount to? Why, that there are some commissions enrolled twice;—this is frequently the case in the Patent Rolls;—and that there are others that have been issued more than once at different dates,—this, also, will be found of constant occurrence, not only in Edward the Fifth's reign, but, I believe, in every other. But these things give no evidence of error, except in the enrolling of some documents twice when once would have been sufficient. The reasons for rejecting the date of the 21st of April are, therefore, reduced to one. It is presumed that the Queen Dowager's party were all-powerful in the Council before the arrival of the Dukes of Glo'ster and Buckingham, and that they would never have granted offices, not even Commissions of the Peace, except to their own friends. In proof of this, Mr. Nichols appeals to the Commissions of Taxes issued on the 27th of April, none of which contains the name of the Duke of Glo'ster or of Buckingham, though they contain those of the Earl of Rivers and the Marquis of Dorset. But, though the Queen's party were certainly powerful, it does not, by any means, appear that they possessed uncontrolled power. The reduction of the young King's escort is a strong argument to the contrary. Nor does it appear evident, as Mr. Nichols would seem to think, that, if the Duke of Glo'ster had been Protector, then his name should have appeared in the Commissions of Taxes. There is no reason why a Protector of England should be a Commissioner of Taxes.

"I am, &c., JAMES GAIRDNER."

To CORRESPONDENTS.—J. C. E.—L. M. T.—G. L.—W. T.—G. W.—C. B.—H.—Ed. H. G.—P. S.—J. C.—received.  
E. R.—The publisher of the work referred to is Mr. Reeve, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

*Erratum.*—P. 378, col. 3, line 12 from bottom, for "Sonne," read *Tonna*.

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